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CANADIAN NATIONALITY.

*A Present-Day Plea.*

BY WILLIAM NORRIS, TORONTO.

WE are on the eve of startling events. Public opinion in Canada has come to the conclusion that something must be done, or some change made, to meet the crisis that is approaching. Half a continent cannot be settled and peopled by a colony; a nation may plant colonies, a colony never can. The Canadian people have assumed the responsibility of populating the North-West, and they must rise equal to the emergency. Already they have spent \$15,000,000 in the partial construction of the Pacific Railway, and it will cost nearly \$100,000,000 more to complete it. The revenue of the country is only \$25,000,000 a year at the most, \$7,000,000 of which is required to pay interest on the public debt, leaving only \$18,000,000 to meet the expenses of government, and the public works. As a colony, with our present revenue,

to meet the liabilities we have undertaken will place us in irretrievable bankruptcy in the near future. The men who advocated Confederation and the acquisition of the North-West, must have seen what such would necessarily lead to. Why will they then oppose the legitimate result of their own work—Independence?

It is said there are two ways out of the difficulty—Canada must either assume nationality, or join the United States. The first is the legitimate and only solution. Generally speaking, England would never permit annexation, unless forced on her by a long and disastrous war, which would almost destroy Canada, for her soil would be the battle-ground of the contending nations. Independence could be obtained without embittering the relations which now exist. But annexation would be no remedy for the evils from

It would seem to be necessary to repeat the statement, previously made in the MONTHLY, that the Editor disclaims responsibility for the opinions of contributors, whether the articles are signed or not. It has been the rule to open the pages of the Magazine for the discussion of subjects currently up in the public mind without reference to the point of view from which the articles are written, the only requirements being temperateness of tone, courtesy, and a fair ability in their treatment. The Magazine continues to be conducted on the same principles that have hitherto governed its policy. Contributors to, and critics of the Monthly, will kindly note this announcement.—ED. C. M.