

Convinced that colonialism cannot last much longer, that imperial federation is an idle dream and that annexation is the most detestable of all, what shall our future be? We have no hesitation in saying that we firmly hope and believe it will be an independent Canadian nationality—not a nationality born of hatred and rebellion, but that free, generous and honorable independence which marks the ambitious youth in turning away from the parental door. The probability of reaching such a state is of course open to speculation, but so far as we can read the signs of the times, they undoubtedly point that way. The national sentiment is rapidly taking hold of the Canadian press, and to large numbers of educated and energetic young men it is making effective appeals. It is common talk among farmers and merchants, it has enlisted the sympathy of leading public men, and, if cultivated with high and lofty aims, is a sentiment that is bound to grow. Mr. Laurier and Sir Oliver Mowat have repeatedly declared themselves in favor of independence, and Mr. Chapleau has said “that colonies, like shoots from the parent tree, gradually but surely tend towards independent life,” and that he believes in the mysterious and natural growth of nations.

The *Toronto Week* has asserted that “no matter with what sentiments of admiration and even of affection the young man, born and nurtured on Canadian soil, may turn to the mighty nation whose flag waves over his native land, he knows and feels that in the eyes of the people of Great Britain he is but a colonist, and that the term carries with it to their ears a connotation of inferiority. He feels, too, the difficulty, the impossibility of being passionately loyal—and loyalty itself is a passion—to an empire scattered over the surface of the globe and embracing people of all races and all degrees of civilization. We feel sure, therefore, that the best, not to say the only effective way in which the as yet feeble plant of Canadian patriotism can be developed into a sturdy tree, to live and grow through centuries, is to foster the hope and purpose of a Canadian nationality.” Even Goldwin Smith has said that “there is nothing in nature and political circumstances to forbid the existence on this continent of a nation independent of the United States.” The *London Spectator* has asked:—“Why cannot the imperial federationists be content to allow the colonies to proceed along their present line of development till they are able to enter into an alliance with England, not as feudatories but as equals—an alliance in which the United States may ultimately be included? That union of English-speaking freemen is an idea worth striving for, and one which we believe may yet be realised.”

From these and numerous other declarations we might quote, it is evident that the movement towards national life cannot be despised. Of its desirability we are thoroughly satisfied. With enormous areas of fruitful soil and mighty forests, with rich