

THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

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Lecture by THE HON. WM. MACDOUGALL.

THE POSITION OF CANADA AS AFFECTED BY THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

(From the *Mail*.)

On Friday, April 5, Mr. Macdougall was warmly received, said that in accepting the invitation the Burlington Literary Society to deliver a lecture on the subject, "Canada's present position, or her position as affected by the relations between Great Britain and the United States," he could not help thinking that probably many persons would suppose he had some new political nostrum before the public, some new theory, or put forth, or some new subject to object to. He felt it necessary, therefore, to define his position very clearly at the outset, both for the understanding of the part he desired to occupy, as well as for the understanding

ould probably not be without influence of what was said on an occasion

the danger of misapprehension, he permitted to refer to the history of his own story, to remark upon facts of his bearing upon the position of Canada in the past, and to infer from them the position we would occupy in the future as far as it could be looked into by judgment. The influence of pure patriotism, of the sense of duty, of the respect for the God, was a recognized right, as a man of God, was individual, or as one occupying a representative position, he felt no limitation and experienced no difficulty in coming before any assemblage of his countrymen, and in the presence of them, from the present position of our affairs, and considering what course a best for its security and for the welfare of its people. (Applause.) He might say before going farther, that in the history of the world, there had been at two or three years, he found himself very strongly attached as a public man to any of the political organizations whose movements were now agitating the

all that had been done and was
to be done that he found his

measures were calculated to promote the interests of Canada. He had felt himself compelled to say so before, and he felt that he was bound to repeat the declaration here. His experience and judgment led him to that conclusion, and of course it was open to every one to controvert his views upon this point, and arrive at a different conclusion. Nor, did he feel that he was bound to repeat the measures of the policy and views of the Government, but he was bound to say that he constituted the Opposition to the Government? There were proposals emanating from them to which he must assent as unqualified a dissent as to the measures of the Government. He was bound to say that he had any party in the country, or that he could enter heartily into the plans of any political organization; but he did find when he went among the people that there were a great many, for instance, who were in opposition to the Dominion Government, nor what they had done in relation to the North West, and he found that a great many who agreed with him

dition, "and who felt that it was
in a spirit likely to pro-

many persons occupied a similar position to himself, but from their peculiar relations and obligations to parties interested themselves under some of the present measures, they were not permitted to record their opinions on the matters whenever they happened to con- sider them with the opinions of their party. As to himself, he felt entirely free from these engagements, and no adequate answer presented itself to the question, how could he be so honest convictions on his mind upon these and all other questions. It was in that spirit he appeared before them to-night, to make some observations on the subject which had been stated. He was the first in place, the geographical position of Canada, and referred upon this point to a book lately written by Prof. Hurlbut, which he had recommended to the attentive perusal of all his hearers. He stated that the area of the Province of Canada at 4,900,000 square miles—a larger area than that of the United States, and embracing a

pted for the growth of cereals

But we especially we possessed a great empire, an enormous territory, the greater part of which consisted of the best burning soil. Now the land was not so fertile as the larger part of it; unoccupied virgin soil, it became a question of great importance to us that we were to do with it. The solution of that problem depended upon the question of ourselves should occupy the regions of the world. The next task to be considered was that at this great country stretched like a belt for several thousand miles along the frontiers of the powerful states to the south and east; the great rivers crossed us, and we must take into consideration the existence of the United States and their social system and government, their form and system of government, whether we like or not we were in the vicinity of Siam's twin: geographically we were divided from them politically we were divided from them, but socially we were alongside of them. We would continue so to the end of

urated by thousands of miles of

the habitable globe, which had vast
static possessions and colonies all over
world. Some of these were in their
maturity, but growing rapidly, while this
country—he could hardly call it a colony,