

FACTS AND REFLECTIONS.

The political future of Canada should and does occupy a foremost place in the thoughts of its people. It may be true that at present there is no widespread discontent with its existing constitution and relations, but it does not consequently follow that the discussion of the question is premature. Some change in the alliance between Canada and the mother country must, sooner or later, take place, as the relations between parent and child alter when childhood passes to boyhood and boyhood merges into manhood.

The parental control stage of Canadian history ended in 1842. Since then we have been out of leading-strings, managing our own internal affairs, trying to work out a system of government, based on representative principles, which would harmonize discordant elements at the centre, and permit of the absorption and development of territory at the periphery of our possible domain. The mother country has held over us the ægis of her protection, which, happily, has never had to ward off a dart actually thrown.