

which looked enviously at the rise of the bordering Republic, and half-distrusted, half-despised the mother country, have been welded into a people which feels itself a nation, which has overcome its first difficulties, sees its way to future greatness, and is at liberty to enjoy the favours God has bestowed on it—endless territory, broad streams, an industrious people, a climate which exhilarates like the climate of the Union without the drawback of wearing out men's nerves, and the strange luxury of a political protection which enlarges every career, multiplies every success, and ensures security without exacting in return dependence. Were the Dominion independent, the highest posts in Canada would be open, but the highest posts in an Empire would be shut. Were she only an ally, her security would be purchased by something of humiliation, or worse, by a spirit of reliance fatal to honourable independence; but being what she is, an ally within the Empire, a protected State whose protector is but herself again, an actual portion of the whole body, yet with separate vitality, she enjoys a condition absolutely unique in history. She can grow in the middle of the world as the States grew in their isolation. Her people are accustomed to say that they will play in relation to North America the part which Scotland has played in Britain, but if Canada fills up as she is doing, if English emigrants learn as they are learning, that life there is happy, if her political class can develop, as Lord Dufferin says they are developing, statesmen equal to their needs, her place may be a larger one than this, and North American historians may hereafter trace with anxiety and pleasure the rise of a fiercer Prussia in the political system of their continent. The social system of Canada, if not English, differs widely from that of the United States. Her political organization is based on another, and, as we believe, more vital principle, the sovereignty not of a parchment, but of the representatives of the people. Her geographical position is entirely detached, and though not fortunate as to boundaries, is at least as fortunate as that of Prussia, where an assailable boundary has helped as much as any other cause to produce an unassailable people. The thing she most needs now is a succession of men who can preside over her destinies, and control her foreign policy, and interpret her constitution in an adequate spirit; and Lord Dufferin has not only shown that he can perform those great functions, but by the spirit in which he speaks of them has made it far easier to discover his successor. If he can be so gloomy the Vice-royalty of the Dominion must be tempting, and many a politician of mark in the world, conscious of powers for which there is no scope at home, and of energies for which there is no outlet, must as he reads Lord Dufferin's speech sigh for Lord Dufferin's position. Statesmen in England have avoided these great governorships, because they regarded them as stepping stones, and knew that success would not lift them to English power. But if the stepping stone is high enough to be of itself the end, if this Northern Vicereignty be really, as Lord Dufferin evidently thinks, and as by unanimous Canadian testimony he has made it, a Constitutional kingship, what better prize except the Premiership has the Empire to offer? To preside over a nation with a life and a social system and a destiny, to smooth the way of Constitutional government, to correct the aberrations of Liberalism, to help to choose out the fittest rulers, to

have the right of advice and the certainty of grave attention, and to do these things on an adequate arena, in circumstances which compel a world to watch, and amid a people with capacity of appreciation, is a career which may well tempt alike the loftiest and the most able. In showing to the political class that such a career is possible, that in the greatest of British Colonies a man may be a Constitutional King, and yet be appreciated, Lord Dufferin has done a service to Canada possibly more enduring than any of the many for which she as yet appreciates him. Call no man happy till he dies, and no Governor successful till he has retired; but Lord Dufferin, whatever his fortune or his fate, has at least enabled us to perceive the ideal which a Constitutional Governor-General should attain. The attainment of that ideal will be all the easier if it is well understood that for those who attain it time has officially very little meaning. Lord Dufferin already speaks of his "term," but why, unless he desires it, should he have a term?—and he has no right to desire it. He cannot come back and rule us, and, short of that, what can fate do for his happiness, or his fame, or his usefulness to mankind, better than keep him where he is? It is our loss, no doubt, and some day, when the bad hour arrives, Englishmen may feel that their circle of choice for power need not be limited to the middle aged magnates who are choking the benches of St. Stephen's, and who among them have not as yet produced one ruler—for both Sir R. Peel and Mr. Gladstone began as boys—that Britain has among her Viceroys, and Ambassadors, and Governors, and Generals, and Admirals another reservoir of capacities nearly as large as the Parliamentary one, and full of larger men; but at present, and until misfortune shakes us out of our groove, what better place for a man like Lord Dufferin than the constitutional guidance of the Canadian Dominion?—*London Spectator.*

The *Globe St. Petersburg* correspondent says:—"Admiral Popoff's round boat system continually encounters great opposition and would have been shelved long ago were it not for the supineness of naval critics and the severe press laws, which prevent individual or public opposition from asserting itself too strongly."

The North Germans *Allgemeine Zeitung* has propounded an ingenious theory concerning the recent proposal of Mr. Dixon to render elementary education compulsory throughout England. The bill was rejected by a majority of nearly a hundred, and the reason, according to our foreign contemporary, is not far to seek—obligatory instruction would doubtless be the first step to a scheme of general and compulsory military service! If anything would console the Hon member for Bermingham for the failure of his measure, we should think the thought of what his constituents, the inhabitants of that peace-loving town, had escaped, would do so.

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