

sympathy with those who strive to make Canada a nation, and perhaps it may trace its own pedigree to the Canada First movement in which that aspiration was embodied. But there is no use in attempting manifest impossibilities, and no impossibility apparently can be more manifest than that of fusing or even harmonizing a French and Papal with a British and Protestant community. Mere political lines or uniformity of colouring on the map will not make a nation: if they would, Austro-Italy might have been a nation, and so might Holland and Belgium. To make a nation there must be a common life, common sentiments, common aims, and common hopes. Of these, in the case of Quebec and Ontario, there are none. Quebec tells us in the plainest terms that she is pursuing an ideal different from ours, that the connection is merely provisional, that she looks forward to being a nation of herself, and even in the end to supplanting us, and not only cancelling Wolfe's victory but realizing the visions of Louis XIV. If this were a sudden access of sentimental excitement it might pass away as it came; but it has been a steady growth, and moreover it is perfectly natural; a British colony conquered by France and feeling the conqueror's grasp relaxed by his fears would have done exactly the same thing. The extrusion of British population has at the same time been continually going on. Foreseeing the catastrophe, Lord Durham tried to avert it by union. Union failed and thereon followed a partial divorce under the deceptive name of Confederation. French nationality has all the time been gathering strength; at last it has found a leader and declared itself. What chance is there of subduing or absorbing it, and, if it can neither be subdued or absorbed, what chance is there of forming out of two masses, antagonistic in all respects, a united Canadian nation? Switzerland is cited as an example of the successful union of different races and religions. But in Switzerland the races and religions are intermingled; they do not confront each other, like opposing cliffs, as they do here. Moreover the territory of Switzerland is compact, with boundaries most clearly