

—to wit, Protestant and Catholic Canada—are arrayed against any political change whatever.

In considering the obstacles to a political union of Canada with the United States, nothing has been said as to the feeling of Great Britain on this question. It would seem almost incredible that the official and aristocratic class, which is so powerful in England, will favor the loss of nearly half of the British Empire, which would be the result of the annexation of Canada. The colonial policy of Great Britain has been largely stimulated by the expectation that trade would follow the flag, and that, if the English flag ceased to be emblematic of governmental control, English trade would languish and cease. Again the growth of a republican sentiment in Great Britain, which threatens existing institutions, would, it is presumed, receive an enormous impulse should these principles of government, by a single act, be extended over so large a part of the British Empire as is included within the greater half of the continent of North America. Still further, if Great Britain has spent millions of money and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives to make conquests in distant parts of the world, it would be a complete reversal of policy to abandon or cede so great a country as Canada, cheerfully and without a murmur. When one recalls how essential to her political and military supremacy is the possession of outlying posts, such as Gibraltar, Malta, Bermuda, and other strongholds, it seems incredible that she would willingly relinquish Halifax on the Atlantic, or Vancouver on the Pacific. In addition to all this the new-born hopes of an alter-