

status quo, and its ultimate verdict for independence. To all of us who recognize these dangers it is gratifying to see so much discussion of the future of Canada, so many practical protests against "the inglorious policy of drift." The symptoms are that this country is not going to cling blindly to its mother's skirts until it is shaken off with a rebuff—unless, indeed, the rebuff should come unexpectedly soon. Most thoughtful Canadians—and it now seems likely that the thoughtful minority may move the inert mass—are in sympathy with the stirring appeal of Professor Roberts* :—

"But thou, my country, dream not thou!
Wake, and behold how night is done—
How on thy breast, and o'er thy brow,
Bursts the uprising sun!"

From "Seraps and Snaps" in *The Dominion Illustrated Monthly* for 1892, p. 551.

In his recent plea for freedom in the discussion of our national future, Attorney-General Longley is in error in assuming that "the especial advocates of the imperial federation idea always seek to deprive the subject of the character of a fair debate upon its merits" and appeal only to sentiment. Some imperial federationists, of whom I am a humble one, desire to have the question of our future decided upon its merits alone. If we appeal to sentiment, we appeal to principle and self-interest also. If we believe the federation of the empire to be the grandest, most honourable and most stimulating of our possible destinies, we also believe it to be the most prudent, secure and economical of all the proposed changes in our political status. I hold with Mr. Longley that the fair advocates of annexation should be given a fair hearing. A cause that cannot bear discussion is not worth fighting for:

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
That dares not put it to the touch
To gain or lose it all."

*This talented Canadian author strongly advocates imperial federation in his recent "History of Canada." Although this work is published in Boston it fearlessly exposes several fables which are taught as truths to our American cousins.