

dependent in a few years and are a millstone around our necks," wrote Benjamin Disraeli, the future Earl of Beaconsfield to Lord Malmesbury in 1852. "I do not object in the least to that separation" (the separation of Canada from Great Britain). I believe it would be better for us and better for her" declared the great John Bright in the British Commons in 1865. The Canadian Confederation had only been established a few months when Sir John Young, the future Lord Lisgar, on his arrival in Canada to assume the office of Governor-General astounded a distinguished Canadian audience by a declaration, which was rightly interpreted as an invitation to the new Dominion to cut loose from Great Britain and to declare its independence. "At the present moment" said the representative of the British Crown "Canada is virtually independent. It has its destinies in its own hands and its statesmen and people are recognized as competent to judge of their interests and as to what course to pursue to promote those interests. England looks to them for her guidance, whatever her decision may be, either to continue the present association or in due time and in the maturity of their growth to exchange it for some other form of alliance." Remarkable words indeed to fall from the lips of the Queen's representative! But they simply expressed what a great many others in Great Britain thought at the time. Such a leading organ of British opinion as the *London Times*, which in our day under the direction of that arch-Jingo and Imperialist, Lord Northcliffe, is such an ardent supporter of Imperialism and centralization was at the time of which we speak far from flattering to Colonials or so assiduous in seeking the cooperation and support of the Dominion and the other overseas possessions. On the contrary in a rather notable utterance the *Times* went so far as to urge the colonies to take up—we give its exact words—"THE FREEDOM OF THEIR MANHOOD." The utterance of prominent British statesmen and the declaration of the great organ of British public opinion, which I have quoted, simply serve to illustrate the tendency of British opinion at that time in regard to the colonies.