

regularly every month;—that there are other shrines more worthy of the homage of the youthful pilgrims of this land, than that which exists in the Mecca of the Civil Service. Then we should make our own treaties, without reference to the interests of Great Britain; should appoint our own ambassadors, and, of course, have our own standing army. If we were thirty millions of people, instead of five millions, these would be strong points in favor of independence; but we are not thirty millions. Being five, are we in a position to compel observance of treaties, supposing them made? Are we able to take upon our shoulders the enormous expense attendant upon the appointment of ambassadors, their trains, attachés, etc., to the courts of the world? Are we willing to take the necessary steps to defend our shores from the aggression of a foreign enemy without or the assaults of foes within, and, if willing, should we be able to do so with success? If so—if we feel ourselves in a position to say—kindly and tenderly—to our Motherland,—“We thank you for the past; for the fostering care with which you have watched over our childhood and our youth, but we have now arrived at man’s estate and we must say farewell. We thank you that, when we were weak, you lent us your strong arm on which to lean. Now that we are strong we must stand upright;—the world is calling to us to take up our burdens, and we must go. The children you have reared beside these Western seas are one in heart, one in interest, strong in the knowledge that there is no discordant note in all the harmony of our Confederation; so strong in the certainty of our unity and of the indissoluble nature of the ties which bind us together, that we can form an unbroken line of loyal Canadians from the Straits of Northumberland to Vancouver Island, and, whose watchword shall be for the new land, even as it was for the old—

“Come the four quarters of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them.”

“And so we say farewell. With all love and reverence for the memories of the past—with unclouded hopes for the future.” If we are sure of all this, we say—if our judgment tells us that it is all true—if we are able to take upon ourselves the burdens of a separate nationality, and to feel safe in doing so, why, let us go, as no doubt we may go, with our mother’s blessing.

But if there are doubts—doubts of our strength,

of our unitedness, of our oneness of interest—if there are fears—fears that the severance of those ties which, radiating from the Motherland, bind us to her as the common centre of our loyalty and allegiance,—might allow us to drift apart and be broken to pieces on the rocks of discord and diverse interest, then we should not lightly brush those doubts and fears aside. We have now an assured position. We have always the strength of England at our back, should we ever unfortunately need it. We cannot be more free than we are. We enjoy our share of the prestige of the British nation, no light matter. We have our portion of the heritage of the past, of Britain’s glory and her renown. We make our own laws, spend our own taxes at our own sweet will, with no one outside our own shores to clamor for a share. If we are not free, it is not England’s fault: if we are not prosperous, we can lay the blame on no one but ourselves: if we are not happy and contented, our unhappiness, our discontent must proceed from some cause or causes within ourselves, which, instead of being lessened or eliminated by dissolution with Britain, would perhaps only be intensified and rendered doubly active by such a separation. Let it not be written over the tomb of Canadian Confederation—

“We were well—we would be better,
And—here we are.”

FRANCOPHOBIA.

WE do not remember having seen this word before, although it is the name of a disease not by any means new in Ontario. Now that we have written it we do not like the appearance of it. It has a bad look about it which no one will like who wishes to see Canada prosperous, happy and united. It is unhappily true that here and there among the press of Canada there are to be found newspapers badly afflicted with this malady. They are not among the most influential, it is true, much less are they leaders of public opinion, but if it be true that even the most obscure person is possessed of a modicum of influence, the daily reiteration by some of our Ontario papers of ill-considered and defamatory opinions concerning our French Canadian brethren; must certainly tend to stir up feelings between the peoples of Ontario and Quebec of an extremely undesirable nature. We have at least one of these journals in Toronto. The *News* has Francophobia in a most virulent form, and if we are to judge from the increasing vindictiveness of its utterances from day to day,