

THE WEEK.

Third Year.
Vol. III., No. 7.

Toronto, Thursday, January 14th, 1886.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

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THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

FROM her present temporary position, Canada, in time, must move into one of the three following conditions: Annexation to the United States, Imperial Federation, or an Independent Nationality.

I speak of the present status as being necessarily temporary, because a number of principalities situated like those comprising this Dominion cannot possibly for many years remain in any sense dependent on a foreign country; although that country stands as the most powerful among the nations of the earth. The rapid increase of population, the growth of home enterprises and peculiarities, with the gradual but steady and certain assimilation of her various races which natural laws must develop, make it imperative that Canada should force her way to the level where her people can no longer acknowledge political or social connection with another people except on terms of absolute equality.

The first proposition mentioned, Annexation to the American Union, although it has many advocates, is not desirable. There are quite enough United States already; in fact, as it begins to appear in many quarters, rather more than find it convenient to take care of their individual and collective interests. And while their present national troubles, under the treatment of wise political doctors, are likely to disappear, provided no fresh disorders are contracted, the best thinkers believe that an extension of territory on either border would make the disease incurable, and wreck the common nationality. Were it possible to realize the dream of some political maniacs whose ravings emanate from Washington, and gather the whole of North America into one enormous democracy, called the Columbian Republic, or some other equally euphonious name, geographical and other reasons would split the gigantic country into many pieces almost before its organization was completed. Means should be devised for the most mutually beneficial commercial and other relations between Canada and her big southern neighbour; but while the former uses good judgment she will never marry into that family.

As for Imperial Federation, very few people realize what these large-sounding words mean, and a thought of the grandeur and power which the idea seems to forecast has already set many usually steady heads into a whirl of dizzy anticipation; but a little sober study shows that this plan for solving the problem is scarcely entitled to serious consideration. Becoming a component part of the British Empire implies an assumption of relative portions of its debt, army and navy expenditures, and the enormous Crown salaries, whose annual aggregate is something almost beyond comprehension from New World standpoints. The unmistakable trend of Canadian feeling is toward the broadest franchise extension consistent with stable government. But before our electors can actually lock arms with their relatives in the Island Kingdom many backward steps must be taken from our present position in this respect. And, aside from these and many parallel hindrances, there remains an objection which cannot be removed, namely, that nearly three thousand miles of stormy ocean would roll between this country and the city in which her laws were made. Trammelled thus, in numerous details, they would never be properly effective.

There being no other course open to her, Canada must eventually become a country by herself, and every apparent objection to this conclu-

sion, from the nature of the case, can have no real foundation; while the host of causes whose working together is bound to produce the result each year grows more numerous and weighty.

In a few more decades every foot of available land will be taken up, and the streams of immigration now flowing to our shores will be turned in other directions, and then the peoples of different languages and national ancestry must lose all separating characteristics, and, under the modifying influences of climate and situation, so blend together that a new race will finally appear, which should present the very highest type of natural nobility. In its veins will flow the life-currents of all the northern European countries, with a slight but sure tincture of Indian blood. Such a people, dwelling amid the sublime natural aspects of this Dominion, and possessing her marvellous resources of soil, mineral, forest, lake and river, are sure to occupy the loftiest plains of human intelligence, and only receive acceptable control in a government created and managed entirely by themselves.

In view of these momentous reasons and others in the same line, when the time does come for the inevitable separation, we can hardly believe the long-sighted statesmen who assemble in London will in any way attempt to hinder the movement; but, rather, that the Mother Country will say God-speed, and feel a justifiable pride because another of her rosy-cheeked children displays enough strength and courage to set up housekeeping for herself.

ADDISON F. BROWNE.

"KICKING THE QUEEN'S CROWN INTO THE BOYNE."

THERE are comparatively few on this side of the Atlantic who have any personal knowledge of the fierce storm which raged in the North of Ireland when Mr. Gladstone's famous "resolutions" put the Disestablishment of the Irish Church as a practical issue before the people. Monster demonstrations were held all over the Province of Ulster, and almost every town, big and little, raised its voice in condemnation of what was termed "the spoliation of the Irish Church." The leaders in that great historic agitation were the prominent Orangemen of the day, many of whom still survive, but "some have fallen asleep." The Orangemen felt that faith had not been kept with them, that a fundamental article of the Union was about to be violated by one of the covenanting parties, and they contended with good reason that they had no guarantee that the other articles of the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland would be respected if the fifth article was to be dispensed with in the summary manner threatened by Mr. Gladstone. It will be recollected that the fifth article of the Act of Union provided, "That the Churches of England and Ireland, as now by law established, be united into one Protestant Episcopal Church, and be called the United Church of England and Ireland, and that the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of the said united Church shall be and remain in full force for ever."

Apart entirely from the intrinsic merits of the question of Disestablishment, it will, I think, appear to most unprejudiced minds that the Orangemen who looked upon themselves as the pledged custodians of the Union on one side were not travelling outside the issue when they entered a vigorous protest against what in their estimation was a flagrant violation of a solemn compact. The late Mr. A. M. Sullivan states the Protestant case with great fairness in *New Ireland*, and I reproduce it for the purpose of showing that Irish Protestants had ample reason for being dissatisfied with Mr. Gladstone and his Government.

"The defence of the Irish Church," says Mr. Sullivan, "was based mainly on the Act of Union. There were, of course, other grounds— plenty of them; but one by one they were evacuated as untenable under the fire of argument, logic, and fact poured against them from the other side. Here alone the Church party were confessedly in a strong position. The fifth article of the Act of Union between England and Ireland solemnly declared the maintenance for ever of the Irish Church Establishment, or rather the incorporation of that Establishment with the English as 'the United Church of England and Ireland' to be a fundamental and essential stipulation and condition. The English language could not more explicitly set forth a solemn and perpetual covenant between two parties than this article set forth the contract between the Episcopal Protestants of Ireland and the Imperial Parliament. . . . It was not open to an English Minister to treat them now as two. Together as one they were to