

concession. On the other hand, the council, like most similar bodies, has always contained some men who were selfish in disposition and ultra in opinion, and whose conduct was calculated to irritate the opposite party, and to do more mischief than if they had openly espoused their cause and adopted their principles. But whether the assembly was right or wrong in what it required, or the council justified or not in its opposition, the former has succeeded in all its demands.

The subject has now assumed a new aspect. Pretensions have been put forth that involve the question of independence, and Great Britain must now decide whether she is to retain the province or not. It is a crisis in the history of this country which other nations regard with intense interest. The fate of Canada will determine that of all the other colonies. The retreat of the soldiers will invite the incursions of the barbarians, and the withdrawal of the legions, like those of Rome, from the distant parts of the empire, will show that England,* conscious of her present weakness and past glories, is contracting her limits and concentrating her energies, to meet, as becomes her character, the destiny that awaits all human greatness.

* As a colonist it would be unpardonable in me not to acknowledge in adequate terms the obligation we are under to the chairman of the finance committee for the important discoveries he has recently made in colonial matters. Other men may rival him in industry, but for masterly and statesman-like views he is without a competitor. It is singular that the egregious error Great Britain has heretofore committed in considering her foreign possessions of great value should never have been detected before, and that our forefathers should have had so little knowledge of political economy as to return as sources of wealth and power, what it now appears have always been productive of a fearful annual loss. It would seem that the surface of Great Britain, instead of being too small for her population, is too extensive, and that, instead of carrying on her immense colonial trade herself, she might be spared the trouble by transforming the colonists into foreigners, and permitting others to do that drudgery for her. It is said that the same error has been committed by the owners of timber-trees, in permitting the absurd arrangement of nature, with respect to the limbs to continue unreformed, that they would be much more vigorous if the branches, with their prodigious expenditure on the leaves, were all lopped off (for it is a well-known fact that the trunk supplies the branches with sap, and not the branches the trunk), and that the stem would be larger, stronger, and better without such useless and expensive appendages. Truly this is the age of wonders, but this discovery of the worthy chairman is the most wonderful one of modern times, although, strange to say, it is by no means appreciated as it deserves to be. It would be unfair, as well as ungenerous, to detract from his merit, by saying that he borrowed the idea from agriculture, but it must be admitted that there is a wonderful coincidence between his principle and that of the ditcher. A drain, it is well known, is lengthened by being cut at both ends. Now he appears to have applied this principle to England, and infers most justly that the more she is reduced in size, the greater will be her circumference. Having proved this most satisfactorily, he advances some most important, but startling propositions, namely, that the smaller your property, the less you have to defend; the fewer markets you can command, the more will be open to you; the more dependant you are upon foreigners for sale or supply, the more certain you are of never wanting either; and others of a similar nature. His accuracy in figures is truly astonishing, and is only to be equalled by the truth of the principles they evolve. Then comes the important question, 'If England has grown so great, so rich, and so powerful, in spite of all these expensive possessions, how much greater, richer, and more powerful would she be without them.' Every true lover of his country must rejoice to see that its real interests are so well understood, and so ably supported.—'Nil degenandum, auspice Teucro.'

END OF THE BUBBLES OF CANADA