

main British subjects. Their example deserves the respect of their descendants and fellow-Canadians throughout all time.

This attachment to British connection on the part of Canadians of all origins showed itself again in the war of 1812; and continued until the outbreak in the two Canadas in 1837. At the time of that outbreak the people were laboring under such grievances that an English statesman of rank, after investigating the matter, declared, in effect, that the demands of the Reformers had been reasonable, and that their political opponents were to blame for the rebellion. The outbreak in both Provinces was limited. In Ontario it was put down without the aid of the military. Most Reformers refused to countenance it, preferring to rely on peaceful agitation for the redress of their grievances, and many of them in consequence joined the rest of the community in crushing the movement. The two Canadas were soon afterwards united, and responsible government was conceded to the Province of Canada, as it was afterwards in succession to all the other colonies of the empire. From that time the Liberals of Canada have again been amongst its most loyal inhabitants. There have always been in both parties a few excellent men not sharing this British sentiment, and such have, as I believe, been quite as numerous among Conservatives as among Liberals; the aggregate number has been small.

In 1849, Mr. Abbott and others, carried away by one of those temporary depressions experienced in every country, united in an annexation manifesto at Montreal; but the movement was short-lived, and the principal parties to the manifesto were among the first to abandon the desire for annexation, and to resume their attachment to British connection.

The cry for annexation in 1837, and again in 1849, was partial and short-lived; the cry in 1891, so far, is still more partial, and I hope will prove equally short-lived.

The two principal Liberal leaders in Canada in the last half century were successively Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Brown, and these gentlemen were all their lives as heartily attached to British connection as they were to Canada and its interests. Mr. Brown was