

come to me from ancestors who, in the forefront of deadly warfare, shed their blood for the ancient Crown and Kingdom. I owe everything I am to Scotland. There I was born, baptized, trained and taught. My parishioners of this church, dearer to me each year that we worship and labor together, know that I mean no disparagement of their love and loyalty, when I speak of the unspeakable happiness I had in my ministry over two of, to me, the sweetest of Scotch Parishes. In the words of one of the hymns of our to-day's service of song, I ask, "How should I love another land so well?"

Enough, however, of the personal. I must now crave a very little more of your kind indulgence, while I advert to the declaration, lately made with influence and authority, that the movement for a separate and all-including Canadian nationality is designed and destined to lead, ultimately if not speedily, to a disruption of the tie which links our Dominion to Great Britain. There are some of us who think that the loosening process has already gone too far—that the tendency that way has been recently setting in too strongly. It is high time that all classes amongst us should seriously consider, and pronounce upon, the future of Canada! If, great in geographical pretensions and inherent resources but very small and slow in real progress, she is utterly cut away from integral connection with the Mother Country, where is she to drift? Where?—there are those who catch the echo, answering, from the other side of the Continent! Well, if I was shut up to a choice between what is called "Independence" or "Annexation," I could scarcely say which was best or worst. But, thank God! there is no such alternative thrust upon us, and, for the sake of the Great Republic so near us, for which I have a profound regard, quite as much as for our own sake, I trust there never will. I take things as they are, and my perplexity is, as to what would follow the dissolution of the bond which now binds us to the lands which God gave to our fathers. Looking at the whole question, apart from the rhetorical view in which it is the fashion to present it and in the light of facts and self-interest, it is worth our while calmly reflecting whether it would be