

greatly to the independence of the lesser European kingdoms; but this cannot be urged in favor of Switzerland, a country which, by its own inherent power, has sustained itself for centuries. As inherent power must therefore be taken into consideration, it may be well to see how many of the lesser kingdoms of Europe are only equal if not below Canada in population, territory, trade and shipping. Switzerland, Portugal, Greece, Denmark and Holland, are all below our country in everything which constitutes nationality, while Belgium, Bavaria and Sweden proper, are not much larger. It is true that the independence of the most of these countries is sustained by the policy of the greater powers. The absorption of any of them by one of the great powers would make that power too strong for its neighbors, and hence the jealousy with which any encroachments on the weaker nations is watched and resented. The best modern instance of this, is the case of Belgium during the last war between France and Prussia. In that case we see England, at the risk of being drawn into a long war, extorting treaties from both the powers of France and Prussia to respect the independence of Belgium, although, however, withdrawn from intervention in continental affairs.

The independence of Canada must be sustained, if granted by similar means. The United States are advancing with strides utterly amazing to the countries of the Old World. The commercial supremacy of the Americans in the East is acknowledged by all. They are the real rulers of Japan, and so soon as the diminution of their debt will enable them to reduce their tariffs they must regain their legitimate influence in commerce in the West. American influence is as powerful to-day on the continent of Europe as that of England. If such be the case now, how would it be if Canada were annexed to it? It does not require any political sagacity or diplomatic skill to see the immense disadvantage to England of a material increase in the power of the United States. England has seen it years ago, and the confederation of Canada was the result.