

as represented in Parliament, affirmed this resolve in its last session, and has again solemnly reaffirmed it at this present writing. Let it take but one step beyond and it plunges into the gulf of Annexation, but it is most clear that Canada, for years to come must, however independent, lean for support either on Great Britain or on the United States. Under the present Constitution, the moral support of England, backed by practical demonstration, will suffice to maintain her, prosperous and progressing, a good customer, a faithful fellow subject and a devoted ally. Exchange this for the material support of the United States, and with the latter she takes a prohibitory tariff, a whole heritage of wrongs, Irish and American, aggravated by a sense of loyalty repulsed with scorn, and of love requited not.

This sentiment may provoke a sneer, but it will not promote the sale of Sheffield whittles or of Manchester cottons. Independence in advance of the present Constitution of the Dominion will simply give from six to ten new States to the American Union ; it will thrust Great Britain off this continent and make it more exclusive, in a commercial sense, than Japan. It will give Bermuda and the West Indies, Newfoundland and its fisheries, to a people which may be forced to respect but which can never love England ; and, while she is deprived of even a coaling station on this side of the Atlantic, it will not deny them all manner of supplies in the ports of France or Russia, when she is fighting with the one nation for the possession of the Isthmus of Suez, or encountering the other amid the deserts and rocky fastnesses of Central Asia.

But, on the other hand, independence, in the present constitutional sense, leaves Canada free to the future occupation of many millions of Englishmen, willing to remain British subjects, willing to consume British manufactures, willing to go heart and hand with the empire, without involving any