

enlarged intimacy ; the subsequent determination to make the exhibition permanent was a further step in the same direction ; the Colonial Conference was still another, while the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway—furnishing as it does the shortest available route from England to China and Japan—may hasten the alliance. And all this will probably be followed by Canadian representation in the English House of Commons, and possibly in the House of Lords. So the work of more intimate relationship will progress, until Canada will become no insignificant part of the grandest nationality in the world. Not only grand in the possession of wealth, population, and territory, but morally grand, intellectually grand : A nation which from its broad intelligence, its moral and religious status, and its innate love of justice, has already reached more completely the principles which confer liberty with integrity on mankind than any other. A peaceful and harmonious union with such a nation presents to my mind a vision of grandeur for the future of my country, not easy now to contemplate. This combination of interest and affection need not be burdened with new or onerous responsibilities for Canada. She may continue to retain every right and privilege she now enjoys. She need not, and probably would not, be called upon to discharge any liability or perform any service save of her own contracting. The assumption of no Imperial obligations would probably be required of her, nor would she necessarily be subject to Imperial treaties with other nations affecting interests other than her own. The material change would consist in Canadian representation in the British Parliament, and this representation would probably be of an ambassadorial character, the chief duties of which would be to protect Canadian interests in all negotiations touching the government of this country. And if in the future, the developments which time produces may render separation necessary, in order that Canada may take an independent place among nations, that separation will be sanctioned, but the alliance of affection will never be severed, and the new nation will bear with it in its constitution the stamp of British prestige and of England's glory. Such an alliance would carry along with it mutual advantages of incalculable moment, and ultimately consummate an indissoluble union, which when joined by other colonies would constitute a combination of English-speaking subjects, with power, wealth, and intelligence sufficient to influence the actions of the civilised world. Humanity would then be widely represented ; the Christian religion would be sent to and acknowledged by every land ; the English language would supersede every other ; superstition and bigotry would yield to wisdom and justice ; commerce and trade would not be long in following with rapid stride this march of progress ; the condition of mankind would be ameliorated.

Canada's future may reach what I have faintly predicted, yet the prediction to-day may seem like a visionary dream. Indeed it may not be too much to expect—after examining closely the current of passing events—that the time will come when an alliance of friendship connected by commercial relations between nations under different forms of government, but drawn together by a common language and religion, will be consummated, and foremost among these may yet be found the vast populations of North America, whether directed by a Monarchical or Republican government. One can scarcely arrive at any other conclusion as the inevitable result of universal education.

There still remain many reasons for believing that the future of Canada will be shaped by British rather than by American influences. The existing prosperity of this country, its uniform and equitable laws drawn from British codes, the purity and intelligence of its judiciary, the establishment of large manufacturing interests—fostered and protected by legislation—evinced clearly a prevailing patriotic sentiment. The comparative comfort and contentment in fact among agriculturalists, the constantly improving condition of artisans and every class of workingmen, our admirable common school system, the possession of vast but as yet uncultivated territory, supplying an ample field for profitable investment of both capital and labour, along with forests, fisheries, and mines of incalculable value, the manifest determination of Canadian statesmen to build up a grand North American nationality upon foundations already laid by them and their predecessors, modelled from and supported by British principles, and in harmony with England's ancient constitution, the freedom of action and self-reliance flowing from governments essentially responsible to the people, the evident desire on the part of British statesmen to aid and sustain Canadian statesmen in their patriotic efforts to reach national distinction—even though by so doing the trade interests of England at least for a time, might be injuriously affected—the ready access and rapidity of communication furnished by steam and electricity nearly removing every obstacle to free intercourse which distance once presented,—all go far to demonstrate that a closer union is not only an object earnestly desired, but one capable of practicable attainment.

Nations are formed by identity of interest and perpetuated by sentiment. A combination of interest and sentiment produces independence ; and the welding together of the two becomes a compact next to invincible, which cannot be destroyed, especially when supported by the intelligence, education, and wealth of such contracting parties. While therefore, however attractive to the people of Canada an untrammelled trade intercourse with the United States may be made to appear, or the desire to secure it strengthened, by the contiguity of many, and the facility of access to all the States of the American Union, still the advantages of such trade intercourse, immense as they may seem, will not be purchased by the sacrifice or surrender of an atom of our independence or loyalty, or the affection we entertain for our own and British institutions. If a less restricted trade policy with the United States is to be reached, the subject will be approached by an independent consideration of its merits, as a measure of national importance to both countries, and not as a boon granted by the United States, or upon the condition that we shall transfer our allegiance from England to them. The more unrestricted reciprocity comes to be discussed and considered, the more intense will our affection for the Mother Country become ; because gratitude is a quality which when aroused, even after long inactivity, is not slow to proclaim its impressions ; and Canadian gratitude to England for the many benefits received from her, in times past, when her support was a necessity to Canadian vitality, though it may have been latent and apparently dormant, will again manifest itself, if ever our independence be threatened, or an effort be made to seduce our affections from our oft-tried friends. It will be then that a more critical inquiry will be made as to our past and present obligations, as to where our safety may be found, and our permanent prosperous future be assured, and we shall naturally regard the nation which upheld us in days of weakness and trial with warmer affection than the people who advise desertion, to obtain doubtful pecuniary advantages. Such will be exactly the case if this farmers' spasmodic movement—incited by Annexationists—comes to assume more important proportions, and such would probably be the case, if in the near future National Independence be seriously advocated. Of the latter Bryce in his *History of Canada* says : "Should Canada now declare for independence, she must be prepared to take her place among the nations, must immediately face the building and equipment of a navy to protect her coast line and fisheries, must establish a standing army at least as large as that of the United States, must follow her very considerable commerce to every part of the world with a consular and diplomatic service, must enormously increase her foreign department of government, and severed from British connection, pilot her own way through the treacherous shoals and dangerous whirlpools of international complication." With relations with the United States so varied and complicated, Independence would probably be but the prelude to Annexation, a contingency which the interest, sentiment, and patriotic attitude of the great mass of Canadians forbids even to be discussed.

Canadian loyalty and patriotism have before been severely tested. A series of unfortunate circumstances and events which had for some time been accumulating, culminated in 1849. Trade and commerce of every kind were in a depressed state—had reached a condition of stagnation not known before or since—the country was sparsely populated and the people poor, markets for agricultural products were widely separate—without railways to facilitate access to them, crops were indifferent, political complications were numerous and apparently inextricable, manufactures were just struggling into a precarious existence, what little capital there was could not find profitable investment, our vast possession in the Northwest was then in other hands. In a word, men knew not which way to turn to improve their condition : the outlook in every department of business was everywhere most gloomy ; while in the United States undoubted evidence of activity and general prosperity prevailed. Disheartened and discontented with this state of things, and regarding improvement as hopeless, many leading men in Quebec and Ontario honestly believed that nothing short of Annexation with their more prosperous neighbours would save their country from absolute ruin. With this conviction, a manifesto declaring a desire for Annexation was prepared in Montreal, and widely circulated. Many signatures were procured, and among these are the names of Sir A. T. Galt, Sir John Rose, Sir David Macpherson and the Hon. Luther Holton. Yet, notwithstanding the prominence these names gave to the movement, it was a failure. The loyalty and deep-rooted patriotism of the country at large positively refused to endorse the dangerous sentiments disclosed in the manifesto. Even the authors of the document lived to regret their disloyalty, and most of them afterwards became leading spirits in shaping the destiny of their country from materials provided by her own constitution and laws. If, under such depressing circumstances, the people of Canada possessed the courage and patriotism to reject an