

pletely. My sole aim is to make a few suggestions which seem pertinent now in this connection, for the purpose of eliciting further discussion.

Let me say that I think it not unwise for us to begin to be thinking about the future of Canada. We are not a nation, although possessing national proportions. If Canada had an independent existence our cause would be clearer, because there would be nothing to do but seek a wise government, and go forward in the career of greatness and glory. But we have to fall back upon the reflection that, after all, we are nothing but a colony, and all our affairs are conducted in the name of a Sovereign, who rules over a country which is not Canada, although it includes Canada. Such a condition of affairs cannot last, though it is not necessary to say that it cannot last long. All that is essential to the present argument is to be assured, as we all are, that it cannot last forever. Hence Canada is not settled down to any fixed policy or any definite career. Some change has got to take place sooner or later; we cannot always be a colony.

This fact is recognized by all the writers who have recently offered opinions on this question. The only point to be considered is in what direction the change, which is certainly coming, will take place. In other words, when Canada ceases to be a colony, what will she be? I, for one, cannot think it is too soon to cogitate upon this question, and discuss it, but I do believe it is too early to form definite conclusions.

Mr. Cunningham seems to think that, all things being considered, Imperial Federation is the true and only solution of this problem. I do not deny this. He may be right. But it is not improper to suggest a few things that ought to be taken into consideration, and are bound to weigh in the ultimate decision of the question.

Mr. Cunningham enforces his view by holding up the innate loyalty of the Canadian people to British institutions; the glory of the Empire which kindles our own pride as well as that of those who inhabit the British Islands, and the great destiny which would await such a vast combination as the consolidation of the various British communities scattered over the four quarters of the globe. He then turns to the United States, and points out that we could not accept their institutions and form of government without retrogression and a lowering of our standards. He appears to think that independent national life is out of the question, and far less glorious than citizenship in the Great Empire of which we form a part. I certainly wish to epitomize the reasons advanced fairly, because I have no prejudices, and wish to consider these vital questions in the broadest and most enlightened spirit possible. The Reverend Principal Grant puts forth the same views, only in a more dogmatic fashion, which I do not think strengthens his position, and he has also undertaken to draw comparisons in respect to the fame and reputation of the public men of Nova Scotia, which, while, no doubt, very comforting to him, are scarcely what might have been expected from a broad-minded and generous-hearted thinker.

All that is said in regard to the innate loyalty of the Canadian people I accept, and much that is said in regard to the defects of the American system of government I am not prepared to controvert. From the light I now have, though possibly prejudice has something to do with it, I certainly prefer the British and Canadian forms of government to the American. The idea of being governed by a cabinet which is dependent for its existence every hour upon the support and confidence of the people's representatives, seems to be sounder than to be governed by an executive which is independent of the people's representatives, and, for four years, independent of the people.

Those things all being agreed to, there yet remain several factors which have got to be dealt with, and which have been ignored and kept out of sight by the able gentlemen who have been pushing the Imperial idea.

First. It is impossible for Canada to ignore her geographical position. Whatever may be the position and surroundings of other British Colonies, Canada is part of the continent of North America, and has for a neighbour a vast English-speaking community of people, which, however far we may have drifted apart in national friendship, is yet still nearly allied to us in civilization, laws, aims, institutions, and national aspirations. The doctrines of civil and political liberty which prevail here govern in the United States. The fact that such a body of people exist upon our own borders, and are going to remain there, and that we are daily intermingling with them in business, in social relations, and in various religious, educational and philanthropic understandings, is a factor which no discerning or far-seeing man will ignore. It is not a sufficient answer to say, as does my esteemed friend (Hon. Mr. Mowat), that the United States have become a "hostile nation." In a sense this may be true. Their politicians, their papers, and some of their people do manifest signs of hostility, and such signs are not wanting among the less worthy of our own papers and people. Still, the United States are there, and they exercise a daily and hourly influence over every form of our national and individual life. We feel their influence in every commercial and industrial enterprise in the country.

Second. Is it not well to reflect when holding up this question for general and many-sided observation, what the probable destiny of the British Islands and the United States will be—nay, even go a step farther and consider what the work of one hundred years will effect in the relative position of the continents of Europe and America? I do not think it is unreasonable to ask a people taking thought of their destiny to look forward at least one

hundred years. The present population of the British Islands is about 37,000,000. What will it be at the end of another century? In the nature of things, not over 40,000,000 or 50,000,000. The acme has been pretty nearly reached. What will the population of the United States be? At least 200,000,000, probably 250,000,000, possibly 300,000,000. Is not this fact worth considering? Bear in mind, I am not asking the Canadian people to consider it in the light of a political union with the United States. No such thought is in my mind. But we are asked to make permanent alliances. To throw in our destinies with the British Islands at this juncture would be to turn our backs upon our own continent to form alliances hostile to American aims and policy. Is it not worth while to reflect upon the propriety of mixing ourselves up with European affairs? Is it not practical to say to ourselves seriously that whatever else is done we should be content to found our policy from a North American standpoint, to grow up in sympathy with the ideas of this continent, so that in one hundred years from now we can look forward to being a great power upon the regnant continent of the globe, and permeated with the enlightened views which the atmosphere of North America generates? When North America contains 300,000,000 English-speaking people it will be a greater factor in the affairs of this world than Europe, whatever its population may be.

Third. In spite of our loyalty to the British Crown and our attachment to the British people, and our pride in the Empire, are we quite sure that political alliance with the British Islands at this moment would be a healthy thing for the Canadian nationality? Bear in mind that nation-building is a matter of practical politics, and has to be weighed in a practical spirit. There is sentiment in national growth, and it is a poor business to undertake to get on without it. But the sentiment should burn from within. I would look upon it as a crime to weaken a Canadian's loyalty to Canada when Canada once becomes a nation, but I am not equally clear that it would be a crime to weaken a Canadian's loyalty to Great Britain, if it was clear that Canada's interest demanded it. Great and good as are the institutions of the Mother Country, are we sure it would be a wise thing for Canada to adopt them? In other words would absorption into British methods and ideas suit the tendencies and aspirations of the Canadian mind as moulded in the atmosphere of North America? Let us think about these things.

Great Britain to-day has still an Established Church and an hereditary aristocracy. Would it suit Canadian ideas or interests to accept these? For myself, on this point I give an emphatic negative. Great Britain has still a place in European diplomacy, and has to maintain a standing army and a navy which national interests seem to demand shall be made greater and more costly every year. Is there anything in Canadian life which points to it as a wise policy that we should take a share of those burdens upon us? In North America we can get on very well without those things. Here every man is a breadwinner and a wage-earner, and contributes something to the development of the country. Would it be a mark of wisdom to seek a policy which would involve the conversion of a large percentage of the able-bodied men of the state into a band of hired loafers supported at the public expense? Are there not many considerations which induce one to believe that if Canada is ever to thrive and grow and achieve a great destiny she can do this best in the atmosphere of her own continent rather than stifled with the remains of European feudalism?

I must beg it to be understood I am not dogmatizing. I am only seeking to present several sides of this question for calm examination. Perhaps a titled and hereditary aristocracy is just the thing we need. Possibly a standing army is just the tonic we require, and a dash at some wars in Europe, Asia and Africa the very exercise that would build up our Constitution. But there are some amongst us who have imbibed opposite ideas, and want the matter more fully threshed out. Many other inquiries suggest themselves, such as the apparent impracticability of holding together in a common policy of mutual advantage so many distant and diversely-situated communities; the absence of any necessity on the part of Canada, for purposes of defence or prosperity, to seek for alliances in Europe or Asia, and the manifest difficulty of getting any scheme which would bear promulgation. But I have said, perhaps, enough for the present. Criticism is the hand-maid of creation, and I trust that no enthusiastic friend of Federation will regard these suggestions as being offered in a hostile or captious spirit.

Halifax, May 24, 1889.

J. W. LONGLEY.

MONTREAL LETTER.

AFTER all that is being said and done now-a-days in regard to education, we appear to be but picking up pebbles on the shore of the great ocean. We are very far from considering that every faculty with which we are endowed, physical and mental as well as moral, must be educated, and that each should receive neither more nor less than its full attention, which requires to be regulated by an intelligent consideration of the claims of every other, the whole constituting a distinct and specific preparation for the sphere the individual is intended to occupy. It is an admitted fact that the physical is the basis upon which the character of the mental and moral development depends, and yet not one of us in a thousand pays the slightest heed to the motive power of the work of life. We all hob-

ble through our existence, at the best in a very maimed and lame condition. We walk, and move, and breathe; we eat, and sleep, and dress, but which of us performs either, with a regard for the best and most effective method? And what we know of the vital organs, the supreme governor of the whole, is the most pitifully neglected part of all. Nature has endowed us with a vocal apparatus for example, an organism by which we are intended primarily to speak, possibly to sing. The proportion of mankind who shall sing is evidently but a very small fraction of the whole who shall merely speak, and the curious fact meets us that it is only in the case of the singer that any systematic development of the vocal apparatus is dreamt of:—only for the *pleasure*, and not for the *work* of life that we resort to scientific preparation. Every child is taught to speak and to read; but merely as a means of acquiring the medium of interchange of thought, and not as a precious physical delight, not as a training, development, and strengthening of the foundation of all strength, but as a hap-hazard and despised indifference which must prove the foundation of all weakness. Few know and enjoy the exquisite delight, the physical ecstasy of having read aloud, of having sung. Few can be great orators or vocalists. All may read and speak and sing with *physical* correctness, with *physical* pleasure, and, most important of all, with immense *physical* advantage. Much may be done in the middle age to redeem early neglect, but, like everything else, childhood is the season which has nature on its side. Every child, on entering school, should have its vocal apparatus placed under intelligent and scientific guidance. It is really a musical instrument, and holds untold wealth for our use if we shall but claim it. Mr. Charles G. Geddes, in his Studio for Vocal Gymnastic Exercises, deserves the patronage and support of every responsible being in Montreal, as the first interpreter among us of the infinite beauty and value, and the consequent rarity of even good speaking. We all know the paramount importance of spooling thread and packing matches, paring apples and whipping eggs, and the assiduity with which we seek to antedate the improvement almost as soon as it is created, its very dawn bearing the shadow of its own eclipse. But we have still to awaken to the fact that we treat with the most Bohemian incivility and contempt the machine with which nature provides every one of us,—a machine more perfect in its adaptability and more infinite in its application, than the greatest triumph of mechanical production.

An illustration of its wonderful adaptability was presented to all who took the trouble of visiting the Mackay Institute for the Blind and Deaf a few days ago, on the occasion of the annual examination of the pupils. In this Institute there are about fifty pupils, whose ages vary from six years to twenty-three, and whose terms of instruction vary from two weeks to eight years. The everyday blessings of sight and hearing are so *every-day* that we seldom pause to realize all we owe to them. But to any one who has had an experience of trying to convey to the deaf our thoughts through some other medium than speech, or to the blind the impressions of the outer world through some other medium than sight, the exhibition must have been pathetically suggestive. Pupils who had been less than a year under tuition wrote on a blackboard words and sentences, and even worked out arithmetical calculations, all of which were communicated to them through signs. One pupil, after a couple of weeks' training, was a simple wonder to all present; whilst the advanced classes displayed a knowledge, not only of language but of grammar, history, geography, drawing and penmanship, which would have done credit to any of our public schools. Perhaps the most touching achievement of all was the *reading*,—the actual lip-speech, acquired under scientific methods by those natural machines, even against the odds of never having heard the sound.

The Normal School, too, has just held a successful meeting to confer the diplomas of the year. Since the inauguration of the school in 1857 the results of the labours of the staff of efficient teachers which it employs, are 2,101 diplomas in all—1,205 elementary, 696 Model School, and 200 academy. In his address the Principal, Dr. Robins, referred to the necessity of raising the study of the French language to its proper place, to make it a living power in the curriculum; and Mr. Ouimet, Provincial Superintendent of Education, argued that English and French should be made compulsory in every school in the Province.

An enthusiastic assemblage gathered in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall to listen to the annual reports of the year's work. The association is entering on its thirtieth year, and has just purchased a lot of very valuable land with an area of 8,448 feet, for their new building. Naturally enough this important step occupied a prominent position in the Secretary's Report, and the prospect of having accommodation suited to the growing requirements of the work in a city like Montreal has encouraged the association to lay its plans for attacking new fields of labour. The site, which is on Dominion Square, facing the Windsor Hotel, was secured at a cost of \$23,000, and a canvass of the city which was commenced last September has resulted so far in \$55,000. In order that the new building be opened free of debt \$40,000 must be realized, and special subscription books for this purpose have been started. The membership of the association now amounts to 1,065, and a junior associate membership, recently inaugurated, adds 229 to the total. In addition to the attendance on meetings in the building, 320 young men on an average, avail themselves of the advantages of the association every day, and the report