

THE FUTURE OF CANADA

Address delivered by J. M. Clark, K. C. before the
Mulock Club, Toronto.

Mr. President and Gentlemen :—

It was with great pleasure that I accepted your invitation to introduce the discussion in your Club of this subject, which must always have a keen interest for every thoughtful Canadian.

It is important to know the history of Canada—no mean history. It is true also that our duty lies in the present. But neither nations nor individuals can rise higher than their ideals, and it is therefore of moment that Canadians should form and cherish just and adequate national conceptions and noble national aspirations.

It may be said that Canada is now happy and contented. We enjoy peace, security and prosperity. Immigrants are flocking to our country, our trade is expanding and our resources being recognized and developed as never before. Therefore, it is said we should let well enough alone, and let the future take care of itself. To this the obvious reply is that the slightest reflection upon recent events must convince every thinking man that our present colonial status and the existing relations between Canada and Great Britain cannot be regarded as permanent. Canadians will never be content with anything less than full citizenship in the highest and completest sense. Rights always involve corresponding obligations, and if we desire the rights and privileges of nationhood we must also assume the corresponding responsibilities.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

At present Canadians have the fullest control over their local affairs, but our foreign relations, which must with the growth of Canadian commerce and shipping, become increasingly important, are now controlled by the Imperial Government, who are responsible to the Imperial Parliament, that is, to the electors of England, Scotland and Ireland. Some adequate remedy must be found for this condition of affairs, which will give Canadians as full rights as Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen.