

THE CASE FOR CANADA.

At a meeting held in Victoria Hall, Winnipeg, on Friday evening, September 13th, 1889, presided over by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, the following lecture on Imperial Federation was delivered by Principal Grant, of Kingston :—

Imperial Federation from a Canadian point of view means simply the next act in a process of political and historical development that began in 1763, when Canada—with the consent of all parties concerned—was declared to be British. From that day, the development of Canada from the position of a British colony into that of a British nationality has gone on steadily. The colonial condition is one of incomplete political development, and Canada has passed through various stages, each of which marks a greater measure of self-government than the previous stage. The various acts in the drama are indicated by successive civil conflicts always ending in constitutional changes that widened our liberties or by struggles against external enemies and influences that sought to interfere with our legitimate development. The making of Canada into a nation has been a long process, and the process is not yet ended. But if you complain of the length of time, I would ask you to give an example of a nation or a tree that has been made in a day. Mushrooms grow in a night, but not cedars of Lebanon. It took Germany and Italy centuries to grow into their present stately strength and unity. The making of France and Britain into nations was, in each case, a long process. The United States of America—with all their immense advantages and with the aid of nineteenth century methods and speed—did not attain to that condition of stable political equilibrium which ensures permanence and prosperity till 1865, or almost a hundred years after their secession from Britain. With us the process of making Canada into a nation must end in one or other of two ways :—either in clothing Canadians with a legitimate share in the supreme rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the Empire to which they belong, that is, in full citizenship, or in a Revolution