

mentality of some Naval or other Officer. Nanaimo would become the principal town of the Island, and Victoria would lapse for many a long year into the condition of a village, until the development of your coal fields, and the growth of a healthier sentiment had prepared the way for its re-incorporation with the rest of the Province; at least that is the horoscope I should draw for it in the contingency contemplated by these gentlemen. But God forbid that any such prophecy should be realized. I believe the gentlemen I have referred to are the very last who would desire to see the fulfilment of their menaces, and I hope they will forgive me if I am not intimidated by their formidable representations. When some pertinacious philosopher insisted on assailing the late King of the Belgians with a rhapsody on the beauties of a Republican Government His Majesty replied, "You forget, sir, I am a Royalist by profession." Well, a Governor-General is a Federalist by profession, and you might as well expect the Sultan of Turkey to throw up his cap for the commune as the Viceroy of Canada to entertain a suggestion for the disintegration of the Dominion. I hope therefore they will not bear me any ill-will for having declined to bow my head beneath their "separation" arch. It was a very good humoured, and certainly not a disloyal bit of "bounce" which they had prepared for me. I suppose they wished me to know they were the "arch" enemies of Canada. Well, I have made an arch reply. But, gentlemen, of course, I am not serious in discussing such a contingency as that to which I have referred. Your numerical weakness as a community is your real strength, for it is a consideration which appeals to every generous heart. Far be the day when on any acre of soil above which floats the flag of England, mere material power, brute political preponderance, should be permitted to decide such a controversy as that which we are discussing. It is to men like yourselves who, with unquailing fortitude and heroic energy have planted the laws and liberties and the blessed influences of English homes amidst the wilds and desert plains of savage lands, that England owes the enhancement of her prestige, the diffusion of