

discover their mistake, the deniers need only open their eyes and look around. The country I instance is Canada. It has stood, it does progress, it is altogether as happily governed as any other in the world. The practicability of the Canadian idea needs no better exemplification than Canada herself affords. Her past and present prove beyond cavil that two races can live in political union forever, and multiply to a mighty nation.

"But will they? That depends, I say again, not on French but on English Canadians. For French Canadians are obviously willing to perpetuate the existing state. There are good reasons why they should be. It secures them in their language and valued institutions more completely than could any other political situation imaginable. It affords them opportunity to occupy new tracts, in the government of which they shall share. They are strongly bound to maintain the separation of all Canada from the United States. In the American Union, Quebec's cherished privileges would doubtless slip away. Standing alone outside that Union, Quebec's overflowing population would be lost to her, and she be powerless beyond her own boundaries. Hence English Canadians can fully count on aid from their French *compatriots* to maintain the political entity of the Dominion. The question more apparently in doubt is whether French Canadians can similarly count on their English Canadian associates.

"Since Mr. Goldwin Smith selected Canada as the scene on which he might possibly bring important events to pass, we have been treated to many variations on the theme that the preservation of the Confederation is a matter not much worth the care of English Canadians. They are asked to balance their citizenship against the shillings perhaps to be gained by giving up all that their forefathers fought for at Queenston, Chrysler's, Lundy's Lane—to balance the old flag against that shadow shilling—to balance against it the hope of creating here a strong power which shall be bound in amity, if not in formal unity, to the British empire. Canadians are invited to dismiss as foolish their reluctance to commit their stalwart boys irrevocably to a situation where in their manhood they might be called to make a battle array against scarlet ranks; they are asked to make the immense national works of their country monuments to an abandoned belief in its destiny, in a word they are advised to put Canadian sentiments in the scale against the possible shilling and to hold out their hands for the shilling. To our professional prophets of woe and disaster alacrity in accepting what they forecast as inevitable would seem exquisitely reasonable. And Canadians are likely to take the same view when Germans ask to live under the flag of France.

"This is perhaps the only country whose citizens are regularly lectured on the ridiculousness of their patriotic sentiments. In England, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, in Turkey even, the man who should advise a mercenary surrender of nationality would be treated as unique in baseness unless, on examination, he were found fit for a lunatic asylum. But, though English Canadians patiently endure such advice, it does not follow that they have no sound reasons for retaining the sentiments that render it futile.

"Just as French Canadians have much to conserve by upholding the Dominion so have English Canadians. That the maintenance of the Dominion implies the retention of responsible government is sufficient reason for patriotism to all who believe in and are accustomed to its working. Again to keep the most potent part in governing half the North American continent may well seem to English Canadians a higher privilege than to take a very insignificant share in governing nine-tenths of it. To hold

these vast territories for or in friendship with Great Britain, may easily seem better than to pledge their present and potential forces to her possible antagonist. To have the central authority nearer than Washington will scarcely appear a trifling object to any who appreciate the difficulties of American centralization, and are aware of the huge frauds practised on the United States Government in its more remote districts. To be free from the internal dissensions that the neighboring republic must face when north and south, so different in products, and therefore in interests, shall be fully populated, is no small prospective advantage.

"But there is a certain indignity in advancing even the best reasons for patriotism; it is a sentiment needing justification no more than does filial love. For men whose hearts are Canadian, it is enough that the preservation of the Dominion seems good in itself. And it is clear that English Canadians can maintain the Dominion only by the complete acceptance of French Canadians as full partners in the Government of the country, only by loyalty to the idea which the constitution embodies. This complete acceptance has long been practically given; when it shall be consciously and willingly given the union will be complete.

"*L'Etendard* has urged one complaint so vigorously that it strikes English-speaking men almost as an insult. Yet the accusation is perfectly reasonable. It denounces as brutally insolent the proposal to Anglicise this province. And indeed it would be somewhat difficult to imagine insolence more naked than that which urges that two solemn treaties should be so set at naught—that of Great Britain with France at the Peace of Paris, and that made so recently between French and English Canadians at the passage of the Confederation Act. It is a thoroughly revolutionary proposal, as striking at the institutions for which both races have sacrificed vast treasure and some blood.

"A truly remarkable thing is to find among those who talk eagerly of 'swamping the French' some advocates of Canadian independence. As well might they scheme to blow up the piers of the Victoria Bridge by way of preparation for loading it more heavily. Not till French Canadians should have been fully convinced that English Canadians have no designs against the privileges for which they value British connection; not till they should have been expressly guaranteed those privileges by instrument is it to be conceived that they would pledge themselves to an independent Canada. And without the strength and the seaboard of Quebec an independent Canada would be totally impossible.

"British Connectionists, Imperial Federationists, Independence men—their roads at present lie close together. They are all to be advanced by cordial relations between the governing races. They will wish that each should be in the virtues of the other 'ever kind, and to its faults a little blind.' None but Annexationists can be served by the exacerbation of race prejudice. And the Canadian whose patriotism is broad enough for the situation, who fully grasps the meaning of the institutions under which he lives, and raises to the acceptance of the Canadian idea, will surely be no less sensitively conservative for the privileges of one race than for those of the other.

"E. W. THOMPSON.

"MONTREAL, Nov. 2, 1885."

All the quotations show the importance of the French language, its universality, and the advantage it is to this country to have a strong French population. How is