

that sense. To say one thing and mean another on a fundamental question is, for a leader, perilous work : and the timidity which feels a cloak needful will be apt to shrink from declaring for Independence if the expected opportunity arrives. But the opportunity will not arrive. It arrived some years ago and it did not find its man.

—No one can be surprised to hear that Sir Alexander Galt feels his situation as Canadian Ambassador unsatisfactory. The Ambassador of a dependency is a diplomatic hippogriff, a creature of the imagination unknown to the actual world. Between England and Canada there may be a private understanding, by virtue of which Canada has a voice in commercial treaties affecting herself : but of this Foreign Powers cannot be cognizant ; in their sight Canada stands precisely on the same footing as Jamaica, Algeria, Cuba or St. Thomas. Necessarily at every step of negotiations they require the sanction of the English Foreign Office, and the Ambassador of Canada in effect finds himself unable to negotiate at all. But perhaps the gale which bears Sir A. Galt away from a bootless mission on the other side of the Atlantic may waft him to a post of greater usefulness and distinction on his own side. He seems to be the only man who can take the leadership of the party in power, supposing that the present Premier finds rest indispensable, and his position during the last ten years has become so independent that there would be nothing to prevent him from seeking assistance in any quarter he might think fit. The hope of a national government, and a respite from faction fighting, faintly dawns upon us once more. It was perhaps too much to expect that Sir John Macdonald, so late in his political life, should shake himself loose from old party ties, and widen the basis of his government. Yet it may turn out that his accession to power was practically a step towards our final liberation from Machines.