

ANNEXATION.

In the present era of our country's history—a period which is marked by significant signs of the times, although not sufficiently ominous to indicate the approach of a national crisis, political, commercial or otherwise—it becomes the duty of every man in Canada to stand up and show his colours, to signify by word and act which side he is on—the side of loyalty or the side of treason. It has been said by some one without much faith in human nature, “that every man has his price.” I have more faith in mankind than to believe such a calumny as that. I believe that an honest man cannot be bought. It seems to me that the world does not contain money enough to purchase a true patriot. The history of the world has furnished us with many illustrious examples of incorruptible honesty and inflexible patriotism. The crucial ordeal of temptation and trial alone can reveal to the public eye the heroic, changeless virtue of such high born souls. There were incorruptible patriots in the days of old. Surely civilization, intelligence intellectual light and scientific progress, have not made men worse than they were in the time of Cincinnatus.

The question of annexation—under the specious pretexts of “Commercial Union,” “Unrestricted Reciprocity,” and other fallacious shibboleths—of Canada to the United States has formed a subject of discussion for some time in the press of this country as well as in that of the States. From our point of view this unpopular idea is fraught with such insuperable obstacles that it may be considered totally impracticable. The agitation of the question, however, will do much good, and can do little harm. It will band together more closely the loyal friends of Canadian Union and British connection. It will also enlighten the public mind of the United States upon many things which have hitherto been only imperfectly understood, and by the great body of the people of that country not comprehended at all.

Foreign demagogues and domestic traitors have drawn pictures of Canada and Canadians for the eye of Brother Jonathan completely at variance with the features of the original. Led astray by these false representations, he has been induced to form erroneous estimates of our country, our character, our condition, our hopes, our aspirations, and our feelings as a people.

Thus led astray by incorrect information, Brother Jonathan, with supreme self-possession, you smoke your cigar, you think of the “Monroe doctrine,” and ponder over the visionary dream that Canada will yet form a part of your country.