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The Trip Hammer.

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"The Trip Hammer," Toronto, Ont.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JOHN B. HARRIS.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS :

J. H. STANTON

R. HARMER,

W. GRIFFITHS,

GORAM POWERS,

J. G. TURTON.

BUSINESS MANAGER W. E. H. MASSEY.

ASSISTANTS :

W. W. ATKINSON,

D. A. CAREY.

ENGRAVER J. L. JONES.

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INDEPENDENCE.

HERE comes a day in the life of every man when he feels that the time has arrived when he must cut loose from the parental roof tree and go out into the battle of life on his own account. To some this period comes earlier, to some later. The same is true in a measure in the life of a nation. Sometimes the departure is precipitated by unexpected or unusual causes; sometimes is delayed until the separation comes to pass naturally, as the only proper course to be pursued. Has that day begun to dawn on Canada? We are told that it has; that from every quarter the cry for independence is beginning to arise and that its clamour must soon fill the land. We are told

so; whether those who tell us are trustworthy, is another matter. On the supposition that they are, it will be well for those who are joining in the cry to be sure of their ground. Independence is a grand thing, both for a man and for a nation, if it can be truly and honorably achieved, and if it be a reality when gained. But may it not sometimes happen that the cost at which it has been purchased has been too great, and that it is only a sham after all? We confess our inability to see how, on the whole, Canada would be the gainer if to-morrow were appointed as the day when, at a given signal, the flag of England should disappear from Canadian flag-staffs forever, and in its place should rise the ensign of Canadian Independence. There can be no question as to what we should lose; what should we gain? First, the right to elect our own Governor-General, President, or whatever we might choose to call him. We may have this privilege this year if we want it. At least, that is our opinion. If the government and people of Canada were to make the request to-morrow, we believe it would be granted. If we think the privilege such a desirable one, why do we not ask for it? Second, our young men would fill positions in the service of the country, civil and otherwise, now usurped by outsiders, aristocratic friends and connections of vice-royalty and its train. No doubt there are positions in the gift of the government so filled, and perhaps if none but Canadians were eligible, there might be room made for a number of young fellows, who, as things are, will remain on the farm, become doctors, lawyers, school-teachers, mechanics, dry-goods men, grocers, book keepers, etc., or will haply blossom forth into that indispensable flower of modern society—the bank clerk. No doubt if some of these could be supplied with niches in the perfumed temple at Ottawa, where their finer natures would be more thoroughly appreciated, the country on the whole would be the gainer. And yet we have heard it remarked by coarse people, that it is only a poor ambition after all which sees its high-water mark in some aristocratic (?) position in the Parliament buildings at Ottawa, where it can serve its country three or four hours a day and draw its salary