

Canada should engage in a life and death struggle with Russia and France for the sake of helping the Japanese whom, by our policy, we exclude from our shores? Nevertheless, as Sir Geo. Cornwall Lewis says of a colony, "its trade may be disturbed, its merchant vessels exposed to the risk of capture, and its territory even made the theatre of war, without its having done anything to provoke hostilities, or having had any means of preventing them, and, although it is only, as it were, a formal party to the dispute" (p. 277).

Let me not be misunderstood. I am not an advocate of independence, if by that is meant separation from the British Crown. Upon the other hand I am not an Imperial Federationist. I do not know even what it means. In political science it is a contradiction in terms; and the various propositions of its advocates, after slight discussion, have all been dropped. Even Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion for an Imperial Court of Appeal was officially withdrawn; and to-day there is no proposal of any kind before us for consideration. My desire is that Canada shall be a nation, in the true sense of that term—"self-existent, autonomous, sovereign," and "capable of maintaining relations with all other governments"—a nation with the British King as its only and all-sufficient head. We shall then and not till then have a developed national sentiment in Canada.

It is well, indeed, that for the past few years these Imperial Federation schemes should have been debated, for we now understand them, and through them we have obtained some insight into the true nature of our situation. Their withdrawal has turned a less divided attention upon ourselves; and we are again thinking of "Canada First," better equipped than ever before for its proper and patient study.

This, in brief, is my theory of these Canadian Clubs:—Canadian Federation appealed to the imaginations of a few in Toronto; some seed was sown, but it fell among the thorns of party politics and the thorns sprang up and choked it. Imperial Federation offered its dream of a Parliament, if not of the world, at all events of a very great part of it; but while Imperialism remains as a great and significant force,