

evolved the plan which will be adopted for the consolidation of the British Empire I do not pretend to say; but I do believe that some form of consolidation will be worked out and adopted, that the Cobden school of thought is now or soon will be extinct, and that never again will a British Minister say, as Disraeli said "Those wretched colonies will be independent, too, a few years and are a mill-stone around our necks." So far from this being the case, the fact is that the colonies are the main source of the future strength of Great Britain; and her prosperity, and almost her very existence, depend upon their development and their consolidation. It is the glory of England that she has founded these English speaking colonies all over the world; and if she does not keep them and give them their full share in the common government of the Empire, the Empire will inevitably fall to pieces and she will become a small trading nation like Holland.

The debate between Mr. Foss and Dr. Montague was most interesting. Mr. Foss stated the position of the New England manufacturer, with his home market oversold and looking for a foreign market under reciprocity. Dr. Montague replied that however beneficial that might be to the New England manufacturer, he could not see in what way it would benefit Canada, which has just established her own manufactures and intends, if she can, to keep the home market for herself; thus adopting the policy which the United States has followed with such singular success for more than one hundred years. In the debate the probable future of Canada and its relations to Great Britain and the United States were much discussed, and this is certainly one of the most interesting questions of the present time. It has been said, I believe by Sir Wilfred Laurier, that the Nineteenth Century belonged to the United States and the Twentieth Century to Canada. There is every reason to believe that this is quite true, in the sense that the development of the United States was the most important historical fact of the Nineteenth Century and the development of Canada will be the most important historical fact of the