

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Social Science Association held in Glasgow, a matter of importance to Canadians was discussed in an elaborate paper read by Sir George Campbell, K.C.S.I., in which it was affirmed that under present arrangements Canada was a burden and a risk to England; that the moment an Englishman reached our shores he became intensely local in his views, ready to decry the interests of the Mother Country; and that, in these circumstances, the only rational thing to do was to cut the connection altogether, and let Canada go free. To us, however, it is gratifying to know that such sentiments are entertained only by a few garrulous K. C. S. I.'s, and certain uninfluential political adventurers. No one acquainted with the people of this country would venture to say that any considerable number of them, whether "to the manner born" or otherwise, are indifferent to the interests of the Empire as a whole. While possessing a profound love for our country, and an ever-increasing desire for its prosperity, yet never do local feelings or prejudices interfere with that true loyalty to the Queen and throne of Britain which, we venture to affirm, is not excelled in England itself. The ovations that everywhere met Lord Dufferin in his late tour through the country were given him, not because of his personal excellences—though in this respect he is one of the most popular Governors we have ever had—but they were the outgrowth and the legitimate expression of that unadulterated loyalty that lies at the base of our political life and character; and as to the idea of Canada being "a burden and a risk" to England, the words are wholly meaningless in this relation. It would not be consonant with the design and character of this publication to discuss political questions from a party standpoint, nor shall we do so. We shall not, therefore, express any opinion on the formation of the Canada First party. We shall merely observe that a healthy Canadian sentiment and spirit may be developed without advocating anything looking towards Independence. Suffering no grievance, possessing all possible liberty, prosperous and contented, the people, as a whole, seek no change in their relations to the throne. And yet we confess our inability to discern grounds for the fears entertained by some of our