

CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

ANNEXATION OR INDEPENDENCE.

A greatly undue importance has been given to the irresponsible utterances on this subject of certain unofficial persons—exaggerated as those utterances were—by the sensational report of a New York “interviewer.” It is certainly only a very small minority, if there are any at all, who desire annexation to the United States. There is in the world no colony more loyal to Great Britain than Canada. The United Empire Loyalist fathers, founders of Canada, were the finest of the wheat, sifted from the revolting colonies. At great cost and with much sacrifice they maintained their fidelity to the mother land. Never has country more fully vindicated its loyalty in hard-fought field than has Canada—and if need were, it would do so again. It is not now going to be false to all its heroic traditions and memories, and, forsaking the “mother of us all,” to fling itself into the arms or at the feet of the American Republic. We are not so in love with their paper constitution, which leads to such entanglements as those of Maine and Louisiana, to the quadrennial civil revolution—to say nothing of their civil war—as to seek its anarchic reign. We have the freest institutions and most direct self-government in the world. As Lord Dufferin remarked at Chicago, we are altogether too democratic to submit to the mode of government of the United States. We have developed relatively much faster than the American Republic, and we possess, at least as fully, all the elements of national prosperity. We are free from many of the social cancers which are poisoning the national life of our neighbours. We have no polygamous Mormonism; no Ku-Klux terrorism; no Oneida communism; no Illinois divorce system; no cruel Indian massacres. Without self-righteous

Pharisaism we can claim, we think, a better Sabbath observance, a less lax social morality, and at least as high commercial and political integrity.

Suppose that the Mother Country wished to fling us off—which the loan of England's daughter and of some of England's foremost sons does not indicate—she would not fling us into the lap of the neighbouring Republic. Suppose, even, that a majority of Canadians could become so craven as to sell their British birthright to a foreign country—a thing to us quite insupposable—yet the sacred rights of the minority—like Abdiel, “faithful found among the faithless”—no majority could override. And even in the event of annexation, such a factor as a disaffected North, added to a disaffected South, would be no good augury of the future of the unwieldy Republic.

The United States will have enough to do for the next generation to “reconstruct” the conquered South; to educate her illiterate negro and foreign population; to civilize New Mexico and reduce to order and cultivation Texas and the Territories; to pacify her Western frontiers, and to “develop” Alaska, without attempting to absorb a region larger than itself.

If the time should ever come to sever the political connection with the Mother Country—the tie of affection never *can* be severed—it will be with her benediction—as a daughter goes forth with a mother's blessing to reign in a new home kingdom of our own. It will be to build up in our vast and fertile territories—the future wheat-field of the world—a greater Britain, a stalwart Northern nation, instinct with the virtues and perpetuating the institutions of the parent land beyond the sea.

We see no good to be gained, but much evil to be feared, through