

been decried as utterly unreasonable, as having no consideration for the interests of the Dominion, and as wishing to get their pound of flesh at any cost of life-blood to Canada. The accusation is a most unjust one, and if a fair review be taken of the history of the Confederation with British Columbia, and of the subsequent negotiations, the dissatisfaction and ill-temper which have been displayed in this Province must be admitted to be natural, and not greater than might have been expected.

Are the people of British Columbia unreasonable, because they object to have forced down their throats a Resolution of the House of Commons which was passed after the terms of union had been finally settled, and of which they never heard when they agreed to join Canada? Are they expected to read with an agreeable smile article after article published in the Canadian newspapers, utterly ignoring or repudiating the terms of union, and discussing the question of a Pacific Railway as though British Columbia were a desolate waste, without a population which had any rights or interests to be considered? Is it surprising that they should express disgust, when public men of Canada can form no higher idea of the value and necessity of a Canadian Pacific Railway than that it is to be built merely for the purpose of enabling two or three hundred people in British Columbia to travel to the East? Have they no right to be angry when a Canadian statesman of the position of Sir A. T. Galt, states at a large public meeting, what *they* know to be utterly false—that the delegates from British Columbia went to

Ottawa prepared to ask merely for a wagon road, and had no intention of demanding a railway, and that therefore Canada is not to be expected to build one?

British Columbia joined Canada with the expectation that she was going to become a portion of a great country stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with which her connection was to be made real by means of railway communication. She supposed that the people of whom she was to become a part, were a people with a sense of honour sufficient to impel them to carry out an engagement once entered into, a people who would be willing to make some little sacrifice in order to preserve their good faith, and to secure a great future for their country. Should this expectation and this supposition turn out to be delusions; should she find that she was tempted to join Canada by promises never intended to be performed, and that she is to remain only nominally a portion of the Dominion; should it appear that the Canadian people are incapable of the breadth of view and the sense of national honour necessary to their formation into a great nation;—then she would unhesitatingly accept the offer which is held out to her by a portion of the people and press of Canada, and by separating become again a colony of Great Britain, independent of the Dominion. Such a step, however, would be but the beginning of the end; the process of disintegration would extend, and all hopes of a great Dominion, with a frontage on each ocean, and rivalling the United States in commercial prosperity and in national greatness, would be lost for ever.

LIFE AND LOVE.

LIFE and Love had a quarrel one day,
When the sun was hidden and clouds were grey.

Each from the other would dwell apart,
And in solitude would keep his heart.

Life would enter a castle tall,
With moat and drawbridge and guarded wall,