

almost at the dawn of the twentieth century, in the laudable purpose of improving the condition of a portion of the human family, the blood of some 200,000 men has been spilled within a few months. War is still uppermost in men's thoughts; it is the one occupation full of life and energy, and all Europe is prepared or preparing for further scenes of destruction and desolation. In the New World, Her Majesty's subjects of various races were privileged to form a sisterhood of provinces without the loss of blood; their schemes and aspirations most fortunately were discovered to be in harmony with Imperial policy, and under the gracious favour of the Queen they determined to make the attempt peacefully to weld the scattered provinces of British North America into one. If not peacefully they felt it should not be done at all, and perhaps the circumstances of the New World rendered easy what elsewhere would have been impossible. In the deep forests and the boundless prairies of Canada there is ample scope for all the energies of man. There, where every additional human life is a positive gain to the country, the combative, without destroying each other, may find vent for their fighting propensities in a life-long warfare against Nature in her wildest form.

Difficulties presented themselves to the idea of union. From geographical position, from distinct political organisation, and from limited business relations, the inhabitants of each separate province knew little of each other, and there had been an almost total absence of social intercourse. In view of a political union, an important step was to make the leaders in the local legislatures and the prominent men in the different isolated provinces acquainted with each other. Accordingly public and private hospitalities were tendered and accepted. Conferences were called for discussion, and festivities of every kind were engaged in. They began in the maritime province, where hundreds from the then province of Canada visiting, perhaps, for the first time, the sea-coast, were sumptuously entertained. Soon afterwards the towns on the St. Lawrence and the great inland lakes echoed back the kindly greetings which came from "those who lived down by the sea." In this peculiar way Canadians, true to the hospitable instincts of the British race, with the knife and fork in place of the sword and rifle, inaugurated a successful attempt to lay the foundation of the New Dominion.

A series of important events followed each other with startling rapidity, finally culminating in a scheme for consolidating in one government half a dozen distinct provinces, and providing for the political future of half a continent. The scheme was confirmed by