

Canada has reached a point at which her future is not only a matter of great interest to herself, but to others; and she must soon accept

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A NATION

in some form or other. On the 7th of August, 1887, Mr. Sherman, one of the shrewdest and most distinguished statesmen in the United States, said in his place in the Senate, "I want Canada to be a part of the United States. Within ten years from this time the Dominion of Canada will, in my judgment, be represented either in the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain or in the Congress of the United States." Mr. Culhom, the chairman of the Senate Committee on the relations between the United States and Canada, said, a few weeks ago, that it was, in his opinion, the duty of the United States so to shape the course of events that the American flag should float over Canada within a few years. This is quite in keeping with the action of the President and Senate in reference to retaliation and other matters affecting Canada. Mr. Blaine and many other politicians might be quoted. The New York press has taken up the subject. It is discussed not only by men, but also by women, in the United States; and a map has just been published showing how the United States would look if Canada formed a part of it. There are some amongst ourselves, very few I am glad to say, who favor Annexation, and our city press almost daily discusses

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as one of the present. Under these circumstances we, who have faith in our country and who aspire to become a great nation, think the time has come for speaking out and for letting England as well as the United States know that we do not wish to sever our connection with the land of our ancestors; that we think the separation of Britain from her Colonies would seal her doom; and that both in her interest and our own we are prepared to do all we can to maintain the connection, at any rate, with the Mother Country. We have not the same affection for other Colonies as we have for the parent State, nor is our interest in them so great. And if the larger scheme of Federation should be found impracticable there is no reason why we should not make our own arrangements with the Imperial Government. I have a strong opinion that Britain, while willing to give us everything we want, will never willingly surrender her right—a right which is absolutely hers at present—of using the Canadian Pacific railway as a road between England and the East, and of coaling at what may be called both ends of that line, which are matters of great commercial and military importance to her. It is too readily taken for granted that Britain would willingly let Canada go. And if such a proposal were made in earnest it would very soon appear that England's ancient instinct for trade is just as keen as ever and that we should have to face a much more serious problem than Federation.

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