

Sir Richard is not a man given to the indulgence of day dreams. His mind is of an essentially practical cast. But, like all our public men, he has given thought to the future of the country. On this point he said, in the speech from which the above quotations are made : " I am well convinced that our present arrangement is one of an essentially temporary character and cannot last, at least without very serious modifications. Behind this comes another and larger question : the relations of Canada to all English-speaking communities, and the possibility or desirability of a closer alliance between them. I believe that it would not only be for our interest, but for the true interest of liberty and civilization all over the world, if the scattered branches of the Anglo-Saxon family, but chiefly Canada, Australasia, Great-Britain and the United States, could see their way to associate themselves in a firm, close and friendly alliance, which should make war, among those kindred peoples, humanly speaking, impossible any more. I cherish no idle vision of uniting them under one form of government, nor do I desire it. What I do dream of is a genuine friendly alliance, not in the least for purposes of warlike aggression on weaker states, but simply to ensure peace and good will among themselves."

The magnificent prospect thus opened to the grand galaxy of British-born nationalities now rising in power and influence in all quarters of the earth, is sympathetically reflected in the minds of their best and ablest sons, and may be realized before the coming century will have reached its meridian. The same far-reaching views of higher statesmanship found expression in his speech on reciprocity, in the House of Commons, in the session of 1888, the best speech, in my opinion, ever made in the Canadian Parliament on the subject of international commerce. There are many passages in his speeches which display the breath and profundity of his statesmanship, which I would like to quote, did the limits of this memoir permit. A few short extracts must suffice. Referring to the right of resistance to injustice and tyranny, he laid down the principle that there are circumstances and occasions when extreme wrongs can only be redressed by armed rebellion. He quoted history to show that there were times when wise men, good men, kind-hearted men, have insisted that it was not only a right, but a duty, to plunge into civil war, and pointed out that, in many cases, but for dread of this the world would run the