

The healthy
ces of pros-
t and hope
reated that
is the most
st the pro-
sentiment.
century later,
ion of the
ctually any
e existed in
ion with the
ear by year,
ry extended
ed the pro-
e, and now
e a higher
ion in the
an common-

derstand the
at mass of
ect concern-
pprehension
ate, we need
acter of the
ada. There
rders, nearly
-born Cana-
million speak
The French
s, for the
edly monar-
e opinions.
the early
that section
king was a
en all the
d with re-
from the
of the dark
under the
for over a
adians have
a deep at-
e and even
e with the
ent State.
r their de-
and are
their affairs,
by the
e war of

American Independence, when stirring appeals were made to the French Canadians by Rochambeau and Lafayette, the French priest was entirely on the side of England. The rebellion of 1837 had no substantial support among the intelligent majority of the people of Lower Canada: on the contrary, they looked with suspicion on the republican sentiments of some of the revolutionary leaders. It was a French Canadian statesman who declared that "the last shot fired for British rule on the continent of America would be fired by a French Canadian." By the present constitution the special interests of the French Canadians are protected, and their rights expressly guaranteed; and under these circumstances, they are the class least likely to see any advantages in annexation. On the contrary, it conveys to their minds the idea of positive peril to those institutions to which they attach the greatest importance. They believe it really means in the end the destruction of their laws and language, just as the old institutions of the French have been gradually forced to give way in the State of Louisiana.

Among the English Canadians there exists an influence against annexation just as powerful in its way as the attachment of the French Canadian to British connection. This is the influence of the descendants of the old Loyalists who made their homes in Canada in such large numbers during the closing years of last century. The descendants of the forty thousand and more persons who became Canadians at that time of imperial discomfiture now form a considerable portion of the dominant class in the Dominion, and still retain that affection for the parent State which is their natural heritage. They have much more liberal, progressive ideas than had their stern,

uncompromising forefathers. They do not form a distinctive political party, but are found in the Liberal as well as in the Conservative ranks. One, indeed, would forget that these are descendants of the Loyalists in Canada, were it not for crises affecting the honour and interests of the empire, when immediately their attachment to England rises above all minor considerations, and makes its influence felt throughout the Dominion. Indeed, to the silent influences of this class may be attributed in a great measure the fact that there are such striking contrasts in the social life of the Canadians and their American neighbours. We do not notice in Canada the restlessness and want of tone characteristic of the average American citizen. Society in the older cities and towns even yet refuses to be Americanised in thought or speech. The language is that of English society of the better class; the orthography is still English, and "honour" has not become "honor," nor are Canadians in the habit of going to the "theater,"—though it must be admitted that the press and careless writers are working energetically in that direction. The current literature is that of England; and it is a fact that even Howells, James, and other distinguished writers, have fewer readers in Canada than in London. Indeed one may think with reason that there is too decided a disposition among Canadians to ignore American literature, and in fact to look suspiciously at everything that is not English—a decidedly insular trait which Canadians have inherited in a large measure from the Loyalists. Indeed it is to the influence of this spirit that we may attribute the slow growth of a native literature in Canada.

These national influences combine with a strong belief in the