

spirit, as if they were members of one and the same family, in which we felt a deep concern." These were Lord Ellenborough's views, expressed more than eight years ago. The Duke of Newcastle then expressed his astonishment at them, and spoke strongly against them. [A voice,—would he do so now?] I think he would not speak so strongly now, if we might judge from his more recent utterances. Lord Brougham followed the Duke and declared himself of those who desired a separation of Canada, as a Colony, from the mother country. He would not throw the Colonists over, nor abandon them. The idea of separation he said "was by no means novel." I quote his own words: "It had been entertained and expressed by many eminent men. It was an opinion shared in by Lord Ashburton and Lord St. Vincent; and those who held the doctrine of separation did so, not because they were disposed to undervalue the importance of Canada, but rather because they highly estimated the importance of that country. They believed that after a certain period of time,—after what was called 'passing the youth of nations,' that of a Colonial life,—the best thing that could happen to a country in Colonial connexion with an older state was, that *without any quarrel, without any coldness or alienation of any sort, but with perfect amity and good will, and on purely voluntary grounds, there should succeed to that connexion, a connexion between two free and independent states.*"

This, gentlemen, is the way in which the most eminent British statesmen speak in the highest council of the nation. Their speech directly concerns us,—comes close home to our business and bosoms,—and what have we to say of it? How do we regard it? Have we considered its significance and reflected on its bearing, as becometh our self respect as a free and prosperous people? Evidently, as our Governor General told us from a Montreal dinner table, a short time since, the present state of things cannot last much longer. But with our present relation, what state of things can we inaugurate which will be permanent and satisfactory to all parties? Shall we place the flower of our able bodied population under arms