

**BUTLER'S JOURNAL.**

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**NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE,  
LITERATURE,  
CURRENT NOTES and SOCIAL  
GOSSIP.**

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FREDERICTON, AUGUST, 1896.

**THE PROGRESS OF INDEPENDENCE.**

The Montreal Daily Star, which hates independence or democracy worse than it does Satan, has in its issue of July 15 a two-column leader of translations from La Patrie, a French Canadian Independence paper, on the subject of our relations with England, and effects to see in it a plot of the French-Canadians to establish a French-Canadian Republic on the banks of the St. Lawrence; to which that paper ably and manfully replies as follows:

"The Star sees a plot in the formation of an Independence Club in Montreal, and in the tone of certain articles of La Patrie during the last electoral campaign.

But does our confrere imagine that Canada is destined to eternally drag the ball and chain of a colonist, and that Canadians must be prohibited from dreaming of independence? This is a little too much, and it will find as many English as French who will sincerely say that this has no common sense.

Our interests are far from being identical with those of England, and we would be sacrificed whenever it would suit the interests of the Empire. Still, while remaining loyal and respectful colonists, it is assuredly permitted to think of the future, to think of the destinies of our country, and to ask ourselves if an independent Canada would not be more prosperous than a Canada in tutelage. If the Star

thinks it is able to harness our population to the car of Imperial Federation it is greatly mistaken. If our confrere is terrified by the creation of an Independence Club in Montreal, what will it do and what will it say when it learns that similar clubs have only lately been founded by English people in the Province of Ontario, and even in British Columbia? As to the Patrie articles against Chamberlain's old guns, and against the Imperialism of the Tupper, etc., they were the expression of French-Canadian patriotism, and legitimate vindication in favor of an honest policy, which could be reasonably conciliated with the immediate interests of Canada."

Certainly, the future will see a Canadian Republic—not only on the shores of the St. Lawrence, but from the St. Croix to the North Pole, and colonists, Imperial Federationists and all reactionary writers who oppose this grand culmination of American freedom, who fail to get their tickets at the door will stand a poor chance of participation in the show when the curtain rises on the first act. They may crawl in from time to time between the acts and we will have ultimately a united country—the strongest Anglo-maniac vying with the advocate of ante-natal independence in his loyalty to Republican institutions and his love for Canada a nation. The Liberal party are in no way committed to the principle, but there is no doubt that it will be easier worked out under a Liberal regime, as that party has not the same slavish submission to monarchy and old world ideas and does not fall in with the Imperial fads of Tupper and Chamberlain for the still further aggrandizement of England at the expense of her colonies in costly armaments, Pacific cables, etc. We have as much faith in the loyalty of La Patrie to Canada as in that of the Star and would inform our friends of every political stripe that the movement will still go on carried out on constitutional principles and with all love and respect for our English brothers, and that the change when it comes will have been so gradual as not to disturb in any way the national equilibrium.

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