

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

Editor of THE CITIZEN.

Sir,—In every city and country in the civilized world there is always some duly constituted legal authority to appeal to in case of any dispute arising between individuals or corporations. Is there any good reason why nations also may not now possess this great advantage, as well as all other corporations? Suppose several of the most advanced nations should agree to erect an International Tribunal, which should be as impartial and equitable as human ability can provide. Suppose also such a tribunal to be actually established upon earth, so as to be generally recognized as a duly constituted legal authority to decide all international questions or disputes. It would then be evident that any such question as that which has recently arisen between England and Russia might easily be settled most satisfactorily, with the least possible expenditure of life or treasure. It will probably be objected, however, that though England might be willing enough to submit the question to any such tribunal, and to abide by its decision, Russia might perhaps prefer to attempt to decide the question for herself by force of arms. In such a case it is evident that Russia would wantonly break the peace of the world when there would be no longer any excuse whatever for so doing; consequently Russia would justly forfeit her sovereignty, and would render herself liable to be disposed of summarily, effectually, and permanently by the combined forces of the whole world, that she might never again possess the power to seriously disturb the peace of the world, and thus a precedent would be afforded for all time to come, that every nation might henceforth recognize the folly of wantonly provoking war in defiance of the combined power of the whole world, for though Russia might be rather a formidable opponent for England to engage single-handed, all the great nations of the earth, acting in combination against her in thorough earnest, would doubtless very soon dispose of her and divide her territory into as many portions as security for the future peace of the world might require.

Should Canada be the means of inducing England to seriously advocate some such policy as here indicated, the present impending war between Great Britain and Russia may not only be averted at once, but perhaps all wars whatever between the nations of the earth henceforth, and a new era of peace be inaugurated simultaneously with the establishment of a thoroughly impartial and equitable International tribunal. In such a case, England and the world would have good cause to be thankful to Canada for promptly interesting herself in a matter so much beyond her comparatively very limited sphere. Consequently I hope you will consider it worth while to insert this short letter, and much oblige.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY WENTWORTH MONE.

Ottawa, 2nd July, 1835.