

with the other colonies, French Canada would no doubt have been included in the treaty of 1782 as one of the States of the American Republic, and if French Canada had gone, probably with it would have gone Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and all that portion of Canada now forming the Province of Ontario, as far west as the head waters of the Mississippi. Am I not right, therefore, in saying that the Congress of 1774, which was the birthplace of this great Republic, was practically, though unintentionally, the birthplace of the Dominion of Canada?

The next step in the cleavage of the Continent was the expulsion from the United States, at the close of the Revolutionary War, of that section of the people who claimed that all their wrongs could be redressed by constitutional methods without separation from the Empire, and who were afterwards known as United Empire Loyalists. I shall not discuss the motives which led them to resist the revolutionary movement of the day nor the motives for their expulsion. In some cases their conduct towards the revolutionary party was probably as inexcusable as the treatment which they themselves received. Perhaps it was feared that if they remained in the country they would foment rebellion and resist the new government which was about to be formed. Suffice it to say that either for reasons of State, or in a spirit of retaliation, thousands were forced to leave their homes and their possessions in the United States, to begin life over again under the usual conditions of hardship incident to the adventurous pioneer. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that they carried with them a spirit of intense hostility to the country from which they were exiled, and at the same time of gratitude to the Government that sheltered them and, as far as practicable, endeavored to recompense them for their losses and sufferings. Speaking of the effect of the expulsion of the Loyalists from the United States, Professor Goldwin Smith says:

"The Loyalist exiles peopled Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Upper Canada with enemies of the new Republic, and if a power hostile to the Republic should ever be formed under European influence in the North of the Continent, the Americans will owe it to their ancestors who refused amnesty to the vanquished in the Civil War."

If the objection taken to the concessions made to the French-Canadians may be considered as the first step in the establishment of the Dominion of Canada, the expulsion of the United Empire Loyalists may very properly be considered as the