

meantime my honourable friend's administration was beaten, but there is no doubt had he remained in power that fair commercial intercourse would have continued till this day. But instead of that we have had in power a set of men who cared less for commercial freedom and international amity, than for the support of some of their blatant and bellicose followers, and we have degenerated into international strife and retaliatory legislation. We revenge ourselves upon our neighbour who imposes heavy burdens upon his people by vexatious taxation of ourselves. We burn his barn, because we suspect him of an intent to fire ours. To judge from official acts, such is the state of feeling at this moment between Canada and the United States. Our Government justified hostile legislation because we are dealing with a foreign and unfriendly people. They have lately published an official pamphlet, through which they maintain that their measures are calculated to force a renewal of reciprocity; while President Grant does not desire reciprocal trade; proposes to repeal the bonding system, and justifies his threats of non-intercourse on the ground that we are "unfriendly."

It is high time for the people of the two countries to put a stop to this irritating controversy. Without a change of administration here there are, as I have indicated, insuperable difficulties in the way of pacific adjustment. We are on the brink of a precipice, and a false step may precipitate us into the yawning abyss. The war of 1812 was preceded by embargoes and the obstructions of non-intercourse. A war of tariffs is the natural forerunner of an appeal to arms. The danger arises, not from the principles and convictions, but from the unreasoning passions of the people, and the first step in the right direction is—removing all obstructions and imitating the noble example of the Government and people of England, to strive for the creation of a safer and a more Christian international feeling. The influence of Canada might have done much to remove unreasonable irritation in both countries. We might have been pacificators instead of promoters of ill-will. We have taken terrible risks, and the consequences may be disastrous if we cannot avert them. Let us act like men. Let us remove the first danger by upsetting the present Government of the Dominion. Whatever may be their local merits, they are incapacitated, as I have shown to deal with these great international questions. Then let us make a friendly ap

peal to the Americans, proving that neither are the British nor the Canadian people their enemies. We will not forego the right to criticise their public acts, but we will treat them as men and as Christians, neither fawning on their greatness, nor hissing our hatred in their ears. Pursuing such a course, we may expect and shall receive a reasonable and just consideration.

It is a shame for a nation like the Americans to cultivate distrust of their Mother Land, and to forget the ties of race and of common principles. Almost within the memory of man they owed allegiance to our Sovereign, and their fealty was as affectionate and as sentimental as our own. They quitted us in anger, but for a generation the Empire has acknowledged herself to the wrong. When they set up for themselves they did not scruple to appropriate their share of the *lars* and *penales* of the Imperial hearthstone. When to their vast and hospitable domains they invited the houseless millions of Europe, they displayed not only the attractions of their fertile fields and productive work-shops, but their institutions, guaranteeing the supremacy of liberty and law after the model of their noble Mother Land. They still spoke the tongue, and professed the faith, and worshipped at the shrines of their brethren across the water. There are those who tell us that to obey the same laws, to read the same books, and to love the same God, give no guarantee of good will if there exist conflicts of interest, of ambition, or of pride. I know all about these temporary estrangements, but they may be, and they must be removed, and we must show the world that "blood is thicker than water."

The British Empire has achieved marvellous power, and each in its turn, she has won trophies from and imposed humiliations upon all nations. But her great power and her miraculous successes have not been unattended by perils. She emerged from the great wars near the close of the eighteenth century still holding the foremost rank among European Powers, but having, nevertheless, been a loser everywhere, except in the East. She had lost the thirteen colonies, and in the Mediterranean, in the Gulf of Mexico, in Africa, and in America she had lost the fruits of her former victories, and Mascally makes it the chief glory of the administration of Hastings, that the prestige of the Empire was maintained by his successful administration in the East. And in all the pluck and triumphs of her subsequent wars, it did