

Now, who are the Belgians, that they should deserve any favors from England? Are they of the same race, of the same habits? do they speak the same language? or perhaps, like Hanover, Belgium was connected with the crown of England. Nothing of the kind. They are simply a mongrel population of French and Dutch, split off from the Netherlands only a short time ago, and erected into a kingdom from motives of policy. They are aliens to England in everything. If such a people obtain the protection of England, Canada must be entitled to it, especially when the political inducements to its support are as great as regards England, as they are in the case of Belgium. The rivalry between France and England is not so great as that between America and the latter power; and the French people never hated England any worse than the Americans. If then, there are the same political reasons, if not greater ones, than exist in the case of Belgium why England should guarantee the independence of Canada, and if the majority of Canadians are bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh, who have stood by her in many a hard-fought battle, and if above all it was England which initiated and encouraged Canadian nationality, then England would guarantee Canadian independence, otherwise she would be false to that career which for the last two hundred years has made her respected by the world as the first nation, not only in power, but in honor, and the respect with which she regards and fulfils all her obligations.

This guarantee would not cost England much. It is more than probable that Canada would not require her active assistance until such time as she would be nearly able to defend herself alone. If the progress made by the United States be taken as the criterion, twenty years would enable Canada, under independence, to hold her own against all enemies. At present Canada could raise an army equal to those of the Great Powers of Europe, on a war-footing. The only question would be her ability to maintain them in the field for any length of time. Canada has at present nearly