## 210 NATIONAL CHARACTER

sponsible government has become a cohesive and vital principle, and Canada has a right to her primacy among the other young nations of the Commonwealth, because within the old provinces of this Dominion that principle was first formulated and established.

Further, the attachment to Britain was strengthened throughout the century by the frequent causes of trouble that arose between the Canadian provinces and the United States, even after the war of 1812, which were sometimes sufficiently serious to endanger the peace. The distinct individuality of the Canadian people cannot be understood unless their relationship towards the United States is taken into account. There never has been any serious trend towards annexation in any of the provinces, and many Americans assuming that there must be have been astonished to discover that their assumption was usually resented by Canadians. Most Americans understood very little about the character of Canada. During the past few years we have heard a great deal as to the part that Canada might play in bringing the United States and Britain together, but until the United States begins to comprehend our national life and history, Canada will not become an efficient interpreter. This fact is all the more surprising because there had been for many years an immense emigra-