

should its writers discredit themselves by attempting to minimize the claims of Canada and Canadians to a share in the world-wide history of British pluck and English-speaking freedom and progress? They have too much to be proud of to render such depreciation either comprehensible or reasonable.

And there is no real grievance against England. British arms, after a prolonged and bitter contest, crushed the power of France upon this continent, kept Spain in order, and Russia in the distance, only to find the Thirteen Colonies in ultimate revolt allying themselves with France against their mother country, and buying Alaska from Russia in order, as Mr. Seward put it, "to check British development upon the Pacific coast." Yet, as Mr. Lowell truthfully indicated, the British conquest of Canada and the consequent millions of pounds sterling of expenditure—still included in the National Debt of England—enabled the Thirteen Colonies to develop peacefully without fear of France, and to obtain and maintain their independence. This the shrewd Marquis de Montcalm clearly saw and predicted in 1759, on the eve of his own defeat and death, when he is said to have written a correspondent in Paris that:

"The Anglo-American colonies, each become a self-sufficient province, would have long since repudiated British domination and declared their independence but for the constant fear of the French, always at their skirts and ready to come down upon them in force. If masters they must have, they preferred to have them of their own rather than an alien race; taking special care, however, to bend to their compulsion as little as possible. But let Canada once be conquered, the Canadians thereby becoming as one people with them, and old England still continuing to assert her supremacy over them in any marked way, can you believe that they would longer submit to it?"

But more than this. Great Britain gave the Republic in 1783 all the vast territory now included in Ohio and neighbouring States, practically as an unappreciated present, Lord Shelburne receiving assurances that for all time to come it would be open and free to British trade and commerce. As a result of mistaken diplomacy the Americans got Maine and Oregon and other territory rightfully belonging to

Canada. During the Civil War, all the persuasions of Napoleon III., all the dictates of hostility in certain influential quarters, all the national tendencies to ambitious rivalry, all the sufferings of cotton operatives and the cotton trade, were disregarded—and the independence of the South remained unrecognized by England when its recognition might have meant permanent American disruption.

Such is the general situation, and before referring in detail to the earlier events of Canadian military annals it may very pertinently be asked why this old-time hostility should be kept up, and the friendliness of Canada and Britain disregarded and declined. So far as Canadians are concerned they feel so proud of their past, so certain of their present power of self-defence, so assured of British strength and union, so confident of their own great future as part of a vast Imperial system, that they are more than willing to be the closest possible friends with the great Republic. But they are not prepared to forget or depreciate the services of Canadian forces upon the battle-fields of Canada, and would like to see the early and historic struggles of our people better known abroad and more appreciated and understood even at home.

The romance of Canadian annals is exceedingly varied and striking. It began with the adventurous travels of French voyageurs and trappers and hunters through the wild forests of Lower Canada, and the self-sacrifice heroism, and true Christian zeal shown by early French Priests amongst the Indian tribes, in the teeth of probable torture and almost certain death. It was continued in the founding of Montreal; in the wars with the Indians; in the wild and solitary life of the first settlers; in that prolonged struggle between France and England which made the northern part of the continent blaze with guns and cannon, and its soil wet with the blood of two great nations contending for supremacy. It was still further marked by the refusal to join the American Revolution, and resistance to both American threats and persuasions. It was illustrated by