

liances with European powers suggested that England should prove the strength of her liking for the United States by convincing Canadians that their true destiny is in annexation with the neighbouring Republic.

We do not know how strong or durable the liking, fancy, inclination or feeling of attachment suddenly conceived for our neighbours by Englishmen may be, but there is no evidence that any such pledge of affection as that asked for by the Hon. Bourke Cochran will be granted. Sentiment in Canada inclines towards closer union with the mother country, and representation in the Imperial parliament, rather than to the annexation or absorption by which the United States would be bounded on the north by Baffin's Bay and by one of the extremities of the earth's axis frequently and vainly sought for by hardy navigators.

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"Soft Illusions." Lest the Hon. Bourke Cochran, and those of his country-men who nurse a similar liking for the North Pole as one of the boundaries to the greatest country on earth, should continue to let

"these soft illusions, dear deceits, arise,"

and mock them with false and deceitful mental visions of the future acquisition of Canada, they ought to read that part of the speech of the Hon. George E. Foster delivered at Lindsay, Ontario, in December, in which he depicts the feeling of a true Canadian in regard to this matter of sharing with Great Britain in the glories of the past, and in having a common heritage with other subjects of the Queen in all the noble deeds of her faithful sons. Any thought of independence, any nightmare of annexation has been dissipated by the Jubilee and the growth of the admirable sentiments of Imperial Federation.

However, we submit for perusal by those who cheered the American orator at last Sunday's meeting the stirring words of the Hon. George E. Foster:—

"Her history of a thousand years, her records of struggles on the battlefields and in the council halls, her literature and her art, are the heritage of a Canadian as much as they are the heritage of an Englishman, Scotchman or an Irishman. Canadians refuse to sever themselves from that long, glorious history of past great deeds, which strengthens us for to-day and inspires us for to-morrow. Our links and bonds to the Empire are twofold: our glory in her past, and our hopes in her future. Our *voyageurs* have done true service on the Nile; our contributions poured into India in her hour of famine; in the great progress to Omdurman, where British arms carried British progress and civilization, side by side with Kitchener, laboured the son of one of Canada's judges, constructing the railway that advanced at an equal rate of speed with the British army; and when the West Indies raised a cry of distress, Canada was not irresponsive."

The Duke of Devonshire during his speech at the

banquet of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce is reported as being loudly applauded for saying: "It is safe to say that at no period within our recollections have our relations with the United States been more friendly than at the present moment." But, strange to say, he never even remotely hinted that it would be necessary for England to show the sincerity of her liking for the United States by convincing Canadians that their true destiny is in annexation with our excellent neighbours, who are certainly wrong in indulging in any soft illusions regarding our future.

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The Consequences of Coddling. That the world, while it had scarcity of people, underwent no other dominion than paternity and elder-ship may be quite true. But it is very questionable if modern parliamentary efforts to make the state sustain the relation of a father to his offspring, of an elder to the members of a synagogue, will prove an unmixed blessing, and is altogether suited to the times we live in. The injurious effect of the Workmen's Compensation Act upon the employment of aged and married men is being experienced in all parts of Great Britain, and an English member of parliament, Mr. Thomas Burt, in a recent address to his constituents, seized upon the fact as an argument in support of the demand for old-age pensions. Mr. Burt contends that aged workmen, having lost their employment through the operation of the Act, the Government responsible for framing such a measure is bound to make provision for sufferers from its enactment. This regrettable outcome of excessive coddling of the masses, of continual catering to the wants and wishes of labour agitators, is also being shown in the South Wales coal regions, where most of the old men were, it is reported, turned adrift at the close of the prolonged labour dispute. The only dependence of these victims to paternal legislation has been their relatives, or, failing them, the parish.

Thus one effect of this Act in its present form is the curtailment of the working life of a man, and the consequent hastening of the day when state aid or parochial relief will be absolutely necessary for an army of unemployed aged and married men. The common sense of British law-makers may surely be relied upon to rectify what is wrong with the Workmen's Compensation Act, and, in grappling with the difficulties presenting themselves, they may find arguments against over-indulgence in the modern tendency to improve the world by acts of parliament.

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A Curious Change in Financial Position. The extraordinary change in the financial relations between the United States and Europe is attracting much attention in New York and in all the leading money markets, and the question as to the permanency of what is styled by some of the financial journals "a remarkable financial situation" is being