

"contract" (p. 85.) This goes beyond the mark. It is one of the rare mistakes *in fact* of that remarkable study.

The mutual obligations of Great Britain and Canada, in matters of war and defence, were the object of at least two explicit arrangements, in 1854 and 1865. The first SIR JOHN MACDONALD described as a "solemn agreement". The second was a real treaty, negotiated and agreed upon by duly appointed representatives of both nations. Under these arrangements, the latter especially, it was formally agreed that Canada's contribution was to be limited to her own "land defence", while the British government "in return, fully acknowledged the reciprocal obligation of defending every portion of the "Empire" — naturally including Canada — "with all the resources "at its command".¹ — "*Upon that basis the Confederation of all the Provinces of Canada was formed*".²

The Dominions were "free as air to make or withhold" any contribution to the naval defence of the Empire. This Mr. CURTIS not only admits without hesitation (p. 86): he accepts it as a rigorous consequence of the national status of the Dominions, as the natural outcome of the evolution through which they "became nations" (chap. VI).

Such was the political order of the Commonwealth when war broke out.

Possible neutrality of the Dominions

"The Dominions were at least as remote from the storm-centre "as the United States, and by declaring their neutrality, a declaration

¹ Declaration of EDWARD CARDWELL, Colonial Secretary, in his despatch to VISCOUNT MONCK, dated 17th June 1865. That despatch contains a full recital of the agreement and the preliminary negotiations as well. (*Imperial Accounts and Papers*, 1865, Vol. XXXVII, p. 437.)

² Words of SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, — one of the Fathers of Confederation, — at the Colonial Conference of 1887. That statement was neither questioned nor qualified by any representative of the British government. These and numerous other proofs of the agreement have been compiled by the present writer in his book : "*Que devons-nous à l'Angleterre?*" Montreal, 1915.

The existence of similar agreements between the British and the various Australasian governments could be proven with equal ease. All those agreements were based upon the principle then universally accepted and eminently equitable, that the Colonies or Dominions, having no responsibility in the conduct of foreign affairs, had no military obligations beyond such help as they could give in the defence of their respective territories.