

February 1889.

A CANADIAN-AMERICAN LIAISON

Mr. Goldwin Smith and Mr. Erastus Wiman have cut all the maps out of their geographies excepting that of the United States of America. They would like to enlarge this map, and if they have their way it will be necessary to double it up before long: the book will hardly hold it. Whether they will succeed in thus revising the geography and making new work for the publishers of school-books may depend upon the result of the next Dominion election which will probably occur in the American presidential year 1892. Mr. Smith's able essays and Mr. Wiman's telegraphic dispatches have convinced the leaders of the Canadian Liberal party that the manifest destiny of the provinces is closer union with the United States, and as soon as they can agree upon a name for the new policy a vigorous campaign will begin. But the name is a very troublesome matter. Shall it be "unrestricted reciprocity," commercial union, or annexation? In favor of the first and second, it is argued that in going down hill easy grades are the best: on behalf of the third, it is urged that when several roads lead to the same market it is wise to take the shortest. Perhaps American statesmen can help these doubting Canadian politicians to come to a decision.

The question for Americans to consider is this: The idea of annexation being distasteful to Canadians in general, will it be good policy for Americans to form a liaison with Canada in the hope of bringing about an honorable union later on? It is inconceivable that any maiden who rejects an honorable offer of marriage from a lover would consent to become his concubine. But perhaps countries are different from maidens: Mr. Erastus Wiman thinks so. He is sure that Canada would indignantly reject an offer of annexation or marriage, and thinks she would readily consent to enter Uncle Sam's house as a concubine. The *New York Sunday Sun*, of September 30, 1888, contained an article giving the views of Mr. Erastus Wiman in the form of an interview with Mr. Blakely Hall. As newspaper men are sometimes charged with making mistakes in reporting interviews, it is important to note that Mr. Wiman, in the course of a letter to the Canadian press, dated October 3, 1888, said: "I had prepared a few days before, at the request of my friend, Blakely Hall, an interview, which, fortunately for my purpose, came out in the *New York Sun* of Sunday morning, and was simultaneously transmitted to a syndicate of 42 different