

treat of the whole subject of the naval defence of the colonies or even of that of Canada, but merely to contribute to the general enquiry by freeing the controversy of the thick haze of misunderstanding by which certain sides of it are surrounded. The existence of the so-called Monroe doctrine and its supposed bearing upon the international position of Canada has served for many years to perplex a subject already difficult in itself and to postpone beyond its due time the solution of the most important political problem of the day. The imaginary protection which it has afforded to Canada has acted as a soporific to the public mind, and even now the breezy call of the deep-sea editor, yo-ho'ing at the halyards of his new Canadian navy, falls on the ears of a crew but half-awakened from their long sleep.

It is the aim of the present essay, therefore, to show that the protection afforded to Canada under the Monroe doctrine is the purest fiction, and has no warrant in history, in actual fact, or in common sense.

The words "Monroe Doctrine," like many other historic phrases, have been put to a variety of uses and been subject to the most conflicting interpretations. As promulgated by the President from whom it takes its name the doctrine was a declaration of policy and a statement of intention: by a recent American secretary of state, it was declared to be a matter of international law: Prince Bismarck called it an international impertinence: Mr. Olney found in it a theory of United States sovereignty over the American continent: President Pierce saw in it a justification of the invasion of Canada, and a Canadian Minister of Militia, not long since, announced it as the palladium of Canadian liberty. Out of this confusion has sprung up the idea, wide-spread in the minds of Canadian citizens, that the Monroe doctrine is something which protects Canada from outside aggression, and that our national existence is safeguarded by the battleships of the United States navy: this too at a cost of some \$120,000,-000 per annum uncomplainingly borne on our behalf by the people of the United States. Such is the belief childishly