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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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of
Britain's Farthest West

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To Canadians in Vancouver, B.C., and Alberta

With your co-operation, the publishers of the "British Columbia Monthly" aim to make this publication increasingly representative. As "the Magazine of the Canadian West," it should serve at least these two Westmost Provinces.

In connection with a circulation extension campaign this message may be brought to your attention. We therefore note these points:

Imperial in outlook, but independent in politics, we believe in strong, clean government in the Provinces and Dominion.

The ideal of the Magazine is "Community Service,"

which, as we vision it, involves living concern in social, educational, literary and religious life and work, irrespective of party, sect or faction.

As space permits, we include articles on all phases of Community interest, and also book reviews, short stories, verse by Canadian writers, etc. Other features affecting the Home, Recreation, etc., will be carried as soon as expansion in the Circulation and Business departments make that possible.

The Magazine is mailed direct to the home and the subscription rate is the minimum one of ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, or TWO DOLLARS FOR THREE YEARS.

Is America Recreant?

In ordinary circumstances, "Is America Recreant?" might be considered not only a daring, but an impertinent question for any journal of a neighboring country to ask. But we think it well-warranted by the direct and reliable information that has come to us from one who has just returned from China and from residence in the war zone there.

The failure of the United States to co-operate with Britain, Japan, France and Italy in the attitude and action taken after the Nanking outrage, has been the subject of international comment for some time. Had there been no Americans involved in the unspeakable barbarities perpetrated, the Government of the United States, while not justified in "bringing up the rear," might have had some little excuse for not speedily co-operating in a practical ultimatum to such powers as there be in China. But when we learn—as we do—that the Nanking outrage involved indescribably brutal maltreatment by Chinese soldiers of *American women*, we cannot avoid asking: Has the spirit of the original British stock—which we know made their great Republic possible!—become submerged and overwhelmed by the numerous mixtures of alien blood, and is America, as a result, becoming a recreant nation? It certainly seems so if her Nationals can be so attacked and grossly insulted with impunity.

It is easy to write arguments, more or less plausible, about the exigencies of political or international life. But, as with individuals, there are times in the history of nations when, in order to ensure respect for the decen-

cies of what we call civilization, to say nothing of democracy or religion, action must take precedence of oral exercise, or even of the most forcefully written protests.

As descendants of the same Anglo-Saxon stock, as Canadian neighbours of the United States people, we trust that, for the sake of human nature and common decency, the present Government of that country will awaken to the fact that a backboneless and vacillating attitude is worse than cowardly: for it leads the coward cult, who attack the defenseless, to believe they are dealing with greater cowards than themselves.

CAN IT BE, as is somewhat freely alleged in certain quarters, that the Government of the United States, just as it procrastinated from 1914 to 1917, —indulging in wordy warfare with a Power likened to "the mad dog of Europe"—its citizens meantime enjoying a "rich neutrality,"—so now it takes the craven course of sheltering itself behind British and other forces, that it may later, by its stand-offish methods, pose as the friend of the Chinese, or even of the Soviet?—hoping thereby to reap a rich harvest in goodwill and trade?

If *that* be, and be to continue, the attitude or intention of the United States, Britons of the Empire the world over will learn of it "more in sorrow than in anger" and yet with the keenest of disappointment and regret. For, in that event, the United States as a Nation, whatever it amass by its Mammon-worship, will be in danger of losing its soul!

Though this Magazine, published in

Vancouver, British Columbia, may be likened unto a voice crying from far away Western Canada, our homes, like many thousands of those of United States citizens, are situated by the portals of that Pacific Ocean whose waves wash many shores besides those of our common North America, and, being British, we would say, with neither presumption nor fear, but with all possible earnestness, to the President and people of our Republican neighbour:—

If you value your nationhood, if you value humanity, if you would not go down in history as craven cowards and hopeless Mammon-worshippers, wake up and take your stand among the peoples peace-loving, yet ready—not merely to talk—but to take action if need be, that human life shall be respected, and personal honour preserved inviolate on the earth!

Children of the Pilgrim Fathers, Kindred and Compatriots of Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt, awake!

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