

the people he "loves" is not worth answering. True. But straws show how the current runs, and the Republicans have captured Congress. Not that the last Congress can be mentioned with honour. Its treatment of the Neckar Island question and the Behring Sea claims was on a par with its wanton waste of over sixteen millions of dollars on a small loan, so far as extravagance goes, while violation of international comity and courtesy is joined to the extravagance in the former cases. Mr. Cleveland showed that the bond syndicate thought it worth sixteen millions to have the word "gold" rather than "coin" in their bond; but the men who take good care to insert "gold" in their own mortgages refused to make the change, when the money of the people was to be saved or lost. It does not rain dollars even in the States; and every million wasted means more general privation and longer depression. Again, that there is to be a cable between Australia and Canada is settled. Very naturally Hawaii wished to tap it, and the parties interested in the cable offered to oblige them, in exchange for a subsidy and a lease of an uninhabited and uninhabitable bit of rock as a landing place. The rock could not be fortified. It has not even the ghost of a harbour. Yet, in spite of the President's recommendation, the Senate took advantage of a clause in an old Treaty with Hawaii to forbid the lease. Still worse is the case of the poor fellows whose ships were seized in Behring Sea. Their property was destroyed and they were thrown into prison. The Court of Arbitration having decided against the States, and the damages having been assessed at three quarters of a million, Mr. Secretary Gresham on behalf of the Government offered something over \$400,000 as a settlement. To save expenses and delay, the offer was accepted. Congress rejected the settlement and made no other provision in the case! The President is a gentleman and of course apologised to Britain, but while that makes the matter all right between the two Governments, what of the wronged sealers in the meantime!

Why do I speak of these things? Mr. Carnegie would say, "because I love the States." So be it; but the real reason is that "forewarned is forearmed." It is not wise for us to be under illusions with regard to the prevailing sentiments of the men who represent a powerful neighbour. Canada must make up its mind that it is not going to realize its freedom without cost. It must decide to be really one with Britain, politically and commercially, or to throw in its lot with the States, or to assert a puny independence. We will do neither the one thing nor the other, and I do not wonder that the nation to the South of us is irritated at our attitude. Halting between two or three opinions is not the way to gain the respect of any one, or to preserve our own self-respect. If we will only be consistent, no harm is likely to befall us; but if we attempt to ride two or three horses at the same time, we are pretty sure to find ourselves in a sorry plight before long.

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