

lands until they were ceded to Greece. The connection, however, which exists between Belgium and England is a better illustration of what might be desired for Canada. In this instance, we see one country perfectly independent, but whose independence would not have lasted ten years were it not for England. Belgium lies alongside of France; the language of her people is chiefly French; and the habits and customs of the country are very similar to those of France. These circumstances are exactly similar to those of Canada with respect to the United States, and to make the similarity more complete, the inequality in the populations of Belgium and France is about the same which exists between the populations of Canada and the United States; but, nevertheless, England has prevented the absorption of Belgium by France. She is in no better position to be guardian to Belgium than she is to fill that position with regard to Canada. She is isolated by the sea from Belgium as she is from Canada. In either case guardianship would have to be exercised by her Navy with the assistance she would have from the people of either country in case of attack.

Now, what is the result of this kind of connection. Belgium is the most prosperous country in Europe, and the most thickly populated. She has 451 people to the square mile, England itself has only 389, and the proportion of paupers in England's population is double that in the population of Belgium. Belgium has one mile of railway to every six miles of territory; England has one mile to every eight miles of territory. England and Belgium are equal as regards telegraphs; they have each one mile to every four miles of territory. This is what is to be expected. The expansive powers of the people of Belgium have full vent. Having full confidence in the power of their great protector, independence gives them self-reliance, and they launch out into all manner of enterprise. Their machinery to-day is vying with that of England even in her own cities, and the products of Belgian industry compete in all the markets of Europe with the native productions.