

CANADA'S ALASKAN DISMEMBERMENT

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INTRODUCTION.

There can be no better introduction to a study of the real issues involved by the Alaskan Treaty between Great Britain and Russia, than the following extract from a letter written by Mr. George Canning, to the Minister in charge of the negotiations, as given by Mr. Thos. H. Baleh, in a recent publication, in support of the claims of the United States. The letter is dated: Feb. 16-28, 1825.

"It only remains in recapitulation to remind you of the origin and principle of this whole negotiation.

"It is not on our part a negotiation about limits.

"It is a demand for the repeal of an offensive and unjustifiable arrogation of exclusive jurisdiction over an ocean of unmeasured extent; but a demand qualified and mitigated in its manner, in order that its justice may be acknowledged and satisfied without soreness or humiliation on the part of Russia.

"We negotiate about territory to cover the remonstrance about principle. But any attempt to take advantage of this voluntary facility we must oppose."

The attitude of the United States respecting the matter of the Alaskan Boundary, can only be properly understood as being part of a policy of aggression upon the Territorial rights of the Dominion of Canada; that, while creating a situation that must make her condition as a Colony of Great Britain intolerable, is one that might be immediately relieved by her secession from the Empire, and alliance with the States. As a solution for the many questions that are pending between the two countries, such a consummation has much to recommend it. The considerations opposed to this alliance may be summed up in the feeling of loy-