

interest as well as to the interests of others, and if it can be shown that it is the interest of all parties that Canada be independent, we ought not to hesitate in making her so even although she should object to it. Two great nations like England and the United States meet each other in every quarter of the globe, and all the disputes which are ever occurring between them must eventually be settled on Canadian ground. But let Canada be an independent state and she will be a neutral power in the event of a war breaking out. Let this view of the question be clearly explained to the Canadians in a despatch properly drawn up from the Foreign Office, and the objections which they have hitherto had to independence will be removed.

But would the Canadians be able to defend themselves and remain independent if they were separate from England? This I do not doubt provided they adopt a form of government calculated to maintain peace and advance the interests of the nation. Such a government would at once be recognized by the European powers, and to these powers Canada might appeal in the event of any uncalled for attack on them by the United States. Let Canada elect a King and a Parliament, and she will be acknowledged by all the powers of Europe, when she will be in a much safer position than she is at present although she was studded all over with camps and fortifications. If the Canadians should elect one of our Princes for her king the chances are they would succeed in obtaining the consent of England and the other powers to that election. This would keep up a connection between England and Canada which would be beneficial to both parties, whereas the present connection, as shown by the Canadians themselves, is prejudicial to the interests of both countries. A commercial treaty upon the principles of free trade could be made, and if necessary a loan guaranteed by England and France, or by England alone, might be arranged, as in the case of Belgium and Greece when they were made independent states.

If Canada should refuse the offer of independence she would be unworthy of her descent as freeborn Englishmen. She would have to say, "We are weak and faint-hearted, and must refuse the liberal offers of England." Is that language becoming an Anglo Saxon race? I think not, and that being so we need not anticipate the refusal of our offer. Depend upon it, the difficulty of carrying out this great measure, so essential to the future welfare of England and Canada as well as the peace of the world, will not come from Canada but from England. Members of Parliament are ready enough to profess willingness to give up Canada, but are they sincere? Have they made the offer, or are they willing that Earl Russell should make it in their name? Let them do that, and I will answer for it that Canada will at once close with the proposal.

But it may be asked if the United States would not object to our declaring Canada an independent state, and make that change a pretext for annexing it? To this I reply that they would not and could not do so. It is an acknowledged principle of international law that every nation has the right to adopt what form of government it pleases, and if we chose to give up Canada, the Canadians have a perfect right to take what form of government they please. When France changed