

of the Maritime Provinces, and the insinuations against the loyalty of the Canadians. No one questions the loyalty of the Nova Scotians, and we all remember that a natural cause of discontent existing in all the colonies was here fanned by demagogues into a very small flame, but let him remember that alone, of all the colonies, the Canadian people have given their lives for their sovereign.

From 1776 to 1866—the defence of Quebec, to the affair of Ridgeway—Canadians of both races have shed their blood freely in defence of British connection. From the proclamation of General Montgomery to that of Sweeney, the burden has invariably been—“We have no quarrel with Canadians, but with Englishmen—share with us the glories of the Republic—its equality, its wealth.” Let Chippewa and Chateauguay tell the answer. The descendants of the DeSalaberrys and the Robinsons have the same answer ready now.

Walk the streets of the chief cities of Canada and you will see a stronger contrast to United States manners and customs than in any other of the American dependencies of Great Britain, and yet we have lived in daily intimate communication with our republican neighbours along the whole length of our frontier. We have separate traditions and different aspirations. The family history of Upper Canadians tells of a fundamental political antagonism in the past. But Mr. Howe, after talking all his life of colonial nationality and nation, is scandalised because Lord Monck uses the word “nation” in his address to Parliament. In a previous quotation is an example of Mr. Howe’s use of the word. Until recently it was a pet word of his own. He says in another speech: “It is impossible to fancy you are in a province—a colony. You feel at every step that Canada must become a great nation.” Even the proposal of a monarchy is not new to him, but he rejected it lest we might have a dynasty of idiots or might give offence to the United States. Nothing, however, can show Mr. Howe’s inconsistency better than his exaggerated picture of the defenceless position of Canada, owing to her frost-bound shores and extended frontier;—while a little further on he claims the Saskatchewan territory, and urges its settlement as a crown colony. If Canada be so helpless, how can Britain pro-

tect the Saskatchewan? Why plant a colony in the heart of the continent and induce an emigration which she would shamefully have to abandon? If Canada be lost England could not even communicate with the territory, much less settle or protect it. And again on the American Union—in one page he speaks of its strength, in another of its approaching dissolution, its vain hope of union. If Mr. Howe believes that, which he must, is there not a chance of our surviving which he does not touch upon?

This question of the defencelessness of Canada never comes up without bringing to indignant recollection that shameful debate in the British House of Commons, when it was proposed by “gallant” officers and listened to with patience, to leave *all* the British North American Provinces to their fate, and simply confine the action of Great Britain to a naval war. Surely this is non-intervention with a vengeance—enough to rouse the sleeping hero population of Westminster Abbey. No one hinted that it was the duty of the empire to assist a colony; no one said that Canada had already borne the brunt of two wars without a murmur; no one said that as the fields of Canada and blood of Canadians mainly were in question it might be just to consider them. Well may the descendants of the United Empire loyalists blush as they think of it and ask—can these be the children of the men who fought Spain when she was mistress of the world; who withstood Europe under Napoleon; who fought and conquered at Plassey and at Agincourt? Why talk any more of Armstrong guns and breech-loaders. War to these arithmetical statesmen is a matter of simple addition. Wellington, at Waterloo, should have counted his guns and saved useless bloodshed by surrender when he found himself outnumbered. England no longer expects every man to do his duty; unless the duty be one which pays in solid £ s. d. But listen to Mr. Howe’s former opinion:—“Taking the population of the British North American colonies at 2½ millions, every fifth person should be able to draw a trigger—giving 500,000 men capable of bearing arms. Such a force would be powerless as an invading army, but in defence of these provinces invincible by any force that could be sent from abroad. Put into these men the spirit which animated