

Continent to the south of us, but we believe in it with equal sincerity and earnestness as applied to the great division of the Continent to the north of us as well. So long as Canada remains as she has been and is to-day, comparatively weak in population, in developed resources, and in military power, she is not a subject of serious concern to us, scarcely even of thought. But once let her begin to assume proportions of magnitude in these directions; once let us discern that her five millions are soon to become twenty millions, and those twenty likely to become in the progress of time forty millions, and the great protective principle of our nationality now lying latent as regards her existence on our borders, would suddenly come to the surface, and what has been up to this and is still only a theory, would on the instant become a condition of things, and a condition as practical and grave as ever challenged the attention of our Government, or thrust itself as a vital force into our politics. I think I do not over-estimate the American instinct touching the solidarity of this Continent when I declare that we of the Republic shall never stand idly by and see a great power built up, either on the southern or northern side of us. Napoleon III. sought to establish a throne in Mexico, and to place Maximilian, the Austrian, upon it. And we, having a domestic matter on our hands, said nothing for a while; but had he succeeded — well, we should have upset his little throne, and shipped his soldiers home to him with our compliments, and the gray and the blue alike would have assisted, with equal heartiness and loyalty, in doing it. And this we should have done, not because we dislike France,