

"by which that Power surrenders to the United States its sovereignty over all of Russian America and the adjacent islands. It specially includes the strip 400 miles long which extends down the coast, thus excluding British America from the ocean. The treaty was laid on the table, and will be taken up next week. The cession excites intense interest: influential parties regard it as significant of Russian policy in view of impending European complications on the Eastern question. Russia cedes her American territory for the same reason that Napoleon sold Louisiana. In the event of war, Russia would probably lose this country, and by parting with it the Czar secures the friendship of our government. The English representative is deeply chagrined, and it is said that Sir Frederick Bruce will telegraph to Earl Derby for instructions to protest against its acceptance by our Government. This acquisition more than doubles the United States coast on the Pacific, which now extends from Lower California to Behring's Straits, with the exception of the comparatively narrow strip comprising British Columbia. The territory ceded comprises the whole of the continent of North America west of longitude 141 degrees; it is bounded by British America and the Pacific and Arctic Oceans; it is of the highest importance as a naval depot for strategic purposes. It is a valuable fur country, and includes a vast section of territory the possession of which will influence in our favor the vast trade of the Pacific." It is natural that the acquisition of Russian America should throw the Americans into ecstatic fits; the acquisition of the North Pole or any insignificant guano island in the Pacific would be made a cause of jubilation, if England could thereby be outwitted or humiliated or tormented. But let us look at the acquisition, and inquire into its importance to the United States and the obligations which its acquisition are presumed to have entailed. The area of Russian America is certainly large, the main portion lying between longitudes 141 and 162 west, and latitudes 60 and 70. A narrow strip, some sixty miles wide, also extends from latitude 60 to 55. It must be apparent that territory which lies so far north as 60 or 70 degrees is not a great acquisition in either a political or commercial sense. The population of the whole territory does not exceed that of the city of Quebec, and the majority of the inhabitants are of the Esquimaux race. There was a time when the yield of furs made the territory a very desirable acquisition; but as the furry tribes have now become exceedingly scarce, the territory is shorn of its principal value. It is true that the new territory will greatly increase the Pacific coast line of the United States, but the harbors of the new territory cannot materially enhance the commercial interests of the Union; and so far as the

notion that the new territory will serve as an important naval depot, we rather incline to the opinion that naval depots will be more serviceable in more southern latitudes. If either contracting party can be said to have made a good bargain, we should think that Russia has the best of it. There is much force in the supposition that Russia ceded the territory for the same reasons that Napoleon I. ceded Louisiana. Russian America is far removed from St. Petersburg and from the Black and Baltic seas, and in case of war with England those seas could be practically blockaded as they were during the Crimean war, and the Russian American territory could be seized upon, and Russia would be helpless to save. We do not think, however, that Russia had any such fears of losing the territory in time of war with England. The territory is comparatively valueless to Russia, England or any other European country, and would scarcely pay for the powder that might be expended in any attempt to wrest it from its present sovereign. We do not think that the propositions for a treaty of cession came from Russia, but from the United States—from the 'Miantonomah' and Assistant-Secretary Fox. It has long been apparent that the United States were anxious to form any European alliance which could annoy and torment Great Britain. The leaning was formerly to France, on account of services rendered during the war for Independence, but the United States has shown a disposition to "break" with France since the Crimean War. It has not viewed with kindness the evident good feeling which obtains in the relations that have for some time existed between Great Britain and that country. France completed her estrangement with the United States by attempting to fix Maximilian on the Mexican throne, and by extending her sympathy to the Southern Confederacy during the late Civil War. Russia was taken into the kindly graces of the United States during the Crimean War, and a seemingly fast friendship has been formed between the autocrat of the Russians and the autocrat of the White House at Washington. The 'Miantonomah' and Assistant Secretary Fox have cemented this friendship with the Czar by means of the treaty which cedes Russian America to the United States. We are told that the Czar secures the friendship of the United States by parting with this extreme point of his territory—that is, the friendship and sympathy of the United States in case Russia should be involved in war with England on the Eastern question. We hardly think it was necessary for the Czar to take that course in order to secure the friendship of the United States. England, although the parent of the United States, and the giver of the laws and institutions and language of that country, does not expect the friendship and sympathy of her degenerate son under any exigencies of war. The friendship and sympathy of the United

States are at the beck and call of any enemy of England and may be had with or without pecuniary considerations. The real object of the United States in treating for the acquisition of the inhospitable territory north of British Columbia is to make another step towards the realization of its ambition, namely, exclusive domination on the northern continent of America. The object is kept steadily in view, and is promoted by absorption and purchase by treaty, and in the end may be accomplished, or the attempt may be made by force to complete the work by conquest. Undivided empire is the dream of the United States. The treaty with Russia has been made with that object in view. It is possible that complications may arise out of the acquisition of the new territory between Great Britain and the United States, but at present we see no reason to apprehend trouble on that score. The statement that the British representative at Washington was "deeply chagrined," we look upon as a gratuitous and worthless piece of news. Sir Frederick Bruce would not be likely to express his opinions nor show his feelings when informed of the treaty, and it would not be his duty to "telegraph to Earl Derby for instructions to protest against the treaty." We do not expect that Earl Derby himself will think it his duty to protest against any treaty which the States and Russia may see fit to enter into. If Russia considers it to be her interest to cede the territory and the United States consider it theirs to acquire it, there is little likelihood of England interfering. The boundaries of British America will not be affected in the least by the cession, nor will the interests of British Americans suffer one jot, when those boundaries and those interests become imperilled it will then be time for England to enter her protest, and that she will do so we have not the smallest doubt.

WELL DESERVED HONORS.—We observe that our gallant countrymen, Capt. Edward Westby Vansittart, of the Royal Navy, for some time in command of the splendid frigate 'Ariadne,' which escorted H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to Canada, third son of the late Admiral Vansittart, of Woodstock, C. W., and brother of Mr. J. G. Vansittart, Secretary to the Government Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, was appointed by Her Majesty on the 13th of last month, an Ordinary Member of the Military Division, or Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath. Col. Edward William Derrington Bell V. C., Col. Henry D'Oyley Torrens, both of the 23rd Regiment, and Col. William Frederick Carter, of the 63rd Regt., two or three years ago stationed in Toronto, have also been gazetted recipients of this distinguished order.