

The question of defence, which in Europe is such a formidable one, does not present the same difficulties in America. North America is practically divided between the United States and Canada—both English-speaking countries, and happily free from the entanglements of European diplomacy. While each great power in Europe is compelled to expend the best part of its treasure upon the maintenance of huge military and naval armaments, the United States, which is larger and wealthier than any of them, has a national police of about 25,000 men. She has no need of more. She stands in no danger of invasion, and the civil authorities are able to maintain order throughout the country. Canada, if she became an independent state, would have but one neighbour, and that one without a standing army, and without any thought of military aggression. Therefore an army and expensive fortifications would be needless. Up to a recent period the people of the United States have seen no great utility in a navy, and allowed the warships which were called into service during the civil war to fall into decay. But of late it has come to be recognised that in a great nation like the States, possessing a commerce which extends over the world, it is a matter of just pride as well as national wisdom to have a well-equipped and efficient navy, which will be ready at all times to maintain the honour of its flag in foreign waters. Such a navy is now being built, and in the course of a few years it will be discovered that the United States navy ranks among the best in the world. Canada, if she assumes the burdens of national life, would have to adopt a similar course, and this involves considerable outlay, but she would be free from the necessity of wasting her resources on expensive military armaments. It is the advantage which North American civilization has over European.

The people of Great Britain, however much they may be disposed to rely upon their own pluck and resources for maintaining the national interests and honour at home and abroad, can view with complacency the creation of an effective navy by the United States as well as Canada. Blood is thicker than water, and whatever little family jars may now and then occur between those great English-speaking peoples, if the day should ever come when British interests and honour were in real peril, owing to European combinations, depend upon it the star-spangled banner, floating proudly from the masts of American warships, would be found floating beside the glorious old Union Jack. This, perhaps, sounds too pretty, but it is not Utopian. In all parts of the United States we hear unpleasant things said about Great Britain. Party politicians are not above seeking votes by appealing to anti-British sentiment. But this is, after all, only skin deep. We can afford to quarrel with our dear relations, and make them the butts of our most polished sarcasm when they and we are prosperous; but in the hour of their adversity and