

forces. But this is not all. It has been coupled with and indeed preceded by the Agreement between the United States and Canada for the setting up of a joint Defence Board and perhaps I may be allowed to repeat the tribute which the Prime Minister paid in a recent message to the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, for the great part which he has consistently played in promoting a harmony of sentiment between the British Empire and the United States of America. I need not remind your Lordships how pregnant with possibilities this new development may well be for peace and freedom in the years to come."

Any part which our country may have had in bringing about a harmony of sentiment between the British Empire and the United States may well be a legitimate source of pride to all Canadians. In the midst of the darkness which today ~~engulf~~^{enshrouds} mankind, the relations between the United States and the British Commonwealth shine forth as the one great beam of hopeful light left in the world.

During the American Civil War, when the relations between Britain and the United States were strained almost to the breaking point, John Bright, speaking in the British House of Commons on June 16, 1863, used these conciliatory and prophetic words:

"I can only hope that, as time passes, and our people become better informed, they will be more just, and that ill feelings of every kind will pass away; that in future all who love freedom here will hold converse with all who love freedom there, and that the two nations, separated as they are by the ocean, come as they are, notwithstanding, of one stock, may be in future time united in soul, and may work together for the advancement of the liberties and the happiness of mankind."