

keen than any other nation for the support and friendship of the United States. Similarly I think the attitude of the United States towards Canada has in the past not been wise. There has been much loose talk of annexation without any serious thought whether annexation would be desirable for either or both countries. There was a time twenty years ago when reciprocity was popular in Canada, and when, by the exercise of proper tact, we might have secured the Canadian market almost as completely as our own market. We were not wise enough to avail ourselves of it, but took the attitude that if we failed to grant reciprocity to Canada we would force her to ask for admission into our Union. So far from doing that we forced her to work out her own salvation: and it has been worked out in a manner worthy of the very best traditions of the Anglo-Saxon race. As matters stand now, Canada has no favors to ask of anyone, either on this side of the Atlantic or on the other. As to Great Britain, it has been said that British sovereignty in Canada exists only so long as it is not exercised, and while perhaps, in view of the loyal feeling now existing throughout Canada toward your mother country, you might hesitate to acknowledge the truth of such a statement, yet, I think that in any matter which brings the question to a practical test you will find this statement not far wrong.

As to Canadian sentiment towards the United States, so far as one may judge from the speeches delivered in this Club, from the attitude of the Press and from what is heard in conversation in Canada, the annexation sentiment, which did exist to some extent at one time, has now practically died out, and any such proposition, if submitted to your electors, would be defeated by a vote of at least ten to one.

Just what your future is to be, whether it is to be in a consolidation of the British Empire, or in absolute independence as a great nation, or in some alliance with your powerful and still growing neighbor to the south, I do not undertake to say; but of this I am absolutely certain, and that is, that your future will be determined by your-