

### **W. BENNETT MUNROE, Ph. D.,**

Instructor in Government at Harvard University, and President of The Harvard Canadian Club, spoke in part as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—

The logical and dispassionate analysis of Canadian sentiment towards the United States which has been presented to us in Mr. Thomson's paper must assuredly give satisfaction to those of us who combine a loyal interest in the land of our domicile with a natural affection for the land of our birth. The cordiality of contemporary Canadian sentiment towards the Republic is especially satisfactory in that it arises largely from a recognition by the people of Canada that their best political, social and economic interests can be served only through the maintenance of the "entente cordiale" with the United States. It is in mutuality of interests that the best basis of permanent friendship are laid; other bases are apt to be transitory only.

That Canada should have passed the greater period of her history with a strong undercurrent of unfriendly feeling towards her ponderous neighbor may now be deplored; her doing so was, however, not without explanation or reason. It must be borne in mind that the two countries spent their early years in the bitterest of hostilities; the hereditary enmity of Gaul and Saxon was reproduced on this side of the Atlantic in the border struggles of New France and New England. The French Canadian of the old régime learned to hate the New Englander as the instigator of all the difficulties encountered by his race in its endeavor to create a Bourbon and Catholic empire beyond the seas. For the expulsion of France from North America his resentment was directed not so much against England herself as against the American offspring of England for whose direct benefit the conquest of New France had been undertaken and accomplished. It is no marvel, therefore, that the Habbant, during the Revolutionary War, showed little desire to link his fortunes with traditional enemies.

The migration of the Loyalists, moreover, added to the population of Canada a large and influential body of men who had little reason to entertain friendly feelings towards the people of the land which they had just left. Many of these transmitted to their sons and grandsons a legacy of bitterness and supplied a leaven of animosity which served very distinctly to mould public opinion more particularly in Upper Canada during the earlier years of the nineteenth century.

Then the War of 1812-1815 served to unite the various provinces in a defensive and, to Canadians, an unjust war. The war served to crystallize and to intensify the traditional antipathy of both sections of the Canadian people towards the Americans. Students of history have not always sufficiently recognized that one of the chief bonds between the French and English populations of Canada during the first quarter of the nineteenth century was their common animosity towards the United States. A little later when the two races came into political broils, each raised against the other the bogey of American intervention as a means of enforcing its demands.