

its preparations for the invasion of Canada, and not till the attempt had been made and failed did those authorities interfere. Yet when a claim for compensation was made for the injury done to this country it was peremptorily refused. The Alabama claims were paid twice over, but hardly an apology was made for the blood shed by American citizens at Ridgeway and Fort Erie.

Coming now to the present time, we find that there is going on in the United States an anti-British agitation of just such a nature as to lead to the commission of outrages akin to that of destroying the Welland canal. All that has been said about the obligation of the United States to Great Britain for her action during the war with Spain is disregarded or forgotten. Not only is Great Britain denounced for an alleged attempt to destroy the independence of the South African Republic, but the people of the United States are told that the existence of Canada, under monarchical institutions, is something that good Americans cannot, and ought not, to tolerate. By the leaders of one of the great parties, intervention in South Africa is demanded, and the feeling in favor of it is said to be so strong that the other party, whatever their convictions may be, dare not oppose it. Upon this overt act of hostility to Great Britain the result of the presidential election is said to depend, and we in Canada are told that we must patiently abide the result of the humors of an irresponsible mob which must be petted and indulged, but not controlled, so as best to suit the interests of the unscrupulous politicians to whom the destinies of the republic are committed.

It would, no doubt, be unreasonable to hold Mr. McKinley and his cabinet responsible for the sayings and doings of Mr. Bourke Cochrane and Mr. Webster Davis, though the latter was lately holding an important office. In fact it is not with a government able to control and answer for the people, such as we find in other parts of the civilized world, that we have to deal, but with an irresponsible mob. What avails it that there is, as we are told, a fraction among the American people who are neither ignorant, nor prejudiced, and upon whose good opinion we can rely. They may have all the good qualities in the world, but they have in fact no voice in the government of the country. They do not to any degree sway the government of the country and are helplessly swamped by the great mass of ignorant and prejudiced voters before whom both political parties abase themselves.