

To Canadians, generally, many of Mr. Smith's opinions can only be described as repulsive. Even if they cannot dispute his reasoning, they will not accept his conclusions. They have set themselves a task which they are determined they will accomplish, even though the Goddess of Reason herself barred the way; even though every fact in history could be marshalled against them; even though every argument, geographical and ethnological, predicted failure.

By every rule of war the British soldier has often been declared to be beaten, when in truth he has come out the victor from the smoke and turmoil of the battle. And so the Canadian goes straight on his course, careless whether his flanks are assailed by batteries of logic, or his rear threatened by volleys of criticism. But no logic or no criticism so galls him as that which comes from the pen of Mr. Goldwin Smith. Why should an Englishman of such transcendent ability, such purity of character, such power of influencing public opinion, be arrayed on the side of the enemy, when he might so greatly aid the cause of those who should be his friends—at least he ought not to put any obstacles in their path?

But in the volume now before us, though the opinions which Mr. Smith holds with regard to British power in America frequently appear, he gains our good will by the fair spirit with which he deals with American history, and especially with that portion of it relating to the revolutionary period. The part taken by our Loyalist ancestors in the events of that period has been so lied about by American writers, and their false statements have been so largely accepted by English historians, that we are grateful to any man who approaches the subject with a spirit of fairness, to say nothing of sympathy, and Mr. Smith is not only fair, but also sympathetic; and in his account of the war, the events which led to it, the cause of its ending as it did, Mr. Smith is equally fair and impartial.

Separation he believes, in any case, to have been inevitable, but the causes which immediately led to it he sums up in that magnificent passage in which he denounces woe to those by whom the offence came—to the arbitrary king and to his ministers, who, through ignorance or inability to realize the true state of affairs, upheld the letter of the law against the light of good nature and good sense, against policy and right. Woe also