

favour of continued British connection, either as at present or under some scheme of Imperial Federation. We are far from deprecating this state of things. To live in a country in which the liberty of the subject has reached this ideal perfection is something to be proud of. But in what other country under the sun is such liberty enjoyed? How long would even the great Republic tolerate an analogous state of affairs? Canadians, it is clear, do not need to transfer their allegiance in order to seek shelter beneath the brooding wing of any bird of freedom.

SENATOR SHERMAN is reported as saying in his much-discussed speech, that the whole history of the two countries (United States and Canada) had been a continuous warning that they could not remain at peace with each other except through political as well as commercial relations. This is a startling opinion, and one the reverse of complimentary to our common Christian civilization. Is there any good reason for believing it well founded? The old quarrels of past generations may surely be left out of the account. Times have changed, and both peoples have changed with them. The enmities engendered by the Revolutionary War are dead. Nine Englishmen out of ten, and ninety-nine Canadians out of a hundred, will now admit that the colonies were in the main right, and the mother country in the main wrong, in that quarrel. So, too, such old grudges and jealousies, and such arbitrary, high-handed measures as those which brought about the subsequent wars, are for the most part things of the past. The citizens of the United States and Canada have traded and visited, intermingled and intermarried, until now the prevailing feeling of all, except certain comparatively small classes in each country, is one of cordial good-will, while many are related by even stronger sentiments. Canadians in tens of thousands are to be found scattered all over the Union, and in very many cases are by no means among the least respected and influential citizens. On the other hand, the different Provinces of the confederation have each a goodly sprinkling of energetic and enterprising citizens of the United States. It is clear that there are no deadly animosities, either personal or racial, to create danger of war between the two countries.

Is there, then, anything in the national institutions or the business relations of the two peoples to justify Senator Sherman's dictum? Both are free and democratic. The difference in their modes of government is rather in form than in substance. The will of the people is in each the supreme law. In education and general intelligence they are about on a level. In their social customs and religious forms and beliefs they are hardly distinguishable from each other. In commercial and legal transactions neither finds any great difficulty in observing the laws and regulations of the other, so far as may be necessary to further the ends of justice and good neighbourhood. The international codes are susceptible of some improvement in the matter of mutual surrender of fugitives from justice, but a mode of adjustment satisfactory to both sides will not probably be very hard to arrange. In the last analysis the Fishery question remains as the only source of serious irritation and possible danger. But the fisheries directly affect but a small number of the population in either country. Moreover, the dispute is capable of easy settlement the moment both parties may choose to set about it in earnest. The worst difficulties are those created by the politicians and diplomatists. If the matter were in the hands of a committee representing the sound common sense of the solid business and industrial classes of both countries, how long would such men be in finding a basis of settlement? Failing personal agreement, they would resort to the sensible and manly course of referring all disputed points for final determination to a tribunal of competent and impartial arbitrators. In a word, the idea that there is anything in the geographical or commercial relations of the two countries, or in the dispositions and characters of their respective inhabitants, to prevent them existing side by side in mutual independence, peace, and hearty good-will, for an indefinite period, is one which every good citizen of both would repudiate and scout if presented for serious consideration.

CANADA has certainly no reason to feel chagrined at the turn the Retaliation affair has taken. Conscious of the strength of her main position, and understanding well what her neighbours would call the "true inwardness" of the Presidential Message and the Congressional fireworks it set off, she was able to pursue calmly the even tenor of her way and await the issue with composure. There may be, it is true, some reason to regret that her Government did not hasten to put her in the right on the matter of the Canal rebate, and that they have put her in the wrong in regard to the peach-basket tax, but these are minor, and in the opinion of some, doubtful matters, which may be adjusted at another possibly more

suitable opportunity. The gratifying result now is that, if current statements may be relied on, the United States' Senate has not only dropped the tone of menace, but is adopting that of persuasion. This is a good omen, and can scarcely fail to lead to a better understanding in the future. Should even a doubtful rumour prove true and the change of tactics be followed up by an invitation to cast in her lot with the Great Republic, we see no reason why Canada should wax indignant and resent as an insult overtures intended to be in the highest degree friendly and complimentary. While declining with dignity and good temper the proffered honour, it should not be difficult to make it an occasion for hopefully renewing negotiations for the permanent settlement of the fisheries question and all other matters in dispute.

THE London *Times*, of September 10, reprinted the text of the Charter which has been granted to the Imperial British East Africa Company, together with a long account of the character, purposes, and prospects of the enterprise. Amongst the petitioners to whom the Charter has been issued are Mr. William MacKinnon, Lord Brassey, Sir Donald Stewart, Sir John Kirk, and others of high reputation. The territory to be administered has been obtained by formal cession from the Sultan of Zanzibar on the coast, and a large number of independent, or semi-independent chiefs in the interior. It lies wholly within the region recognized by agreement between Great Britain and Germany as reserved for the exclusive exercise of British influence. It embraces a strip of coast line about 150 miles long and 10 miles broad, containing the important harbour of Mombasa, or Mombassa, and stretches inward in the shape of an irregular wedge to the eastern shore of the Victoria Nyanza. The estimated area is about 50,000 square miles, and the estimated population about two millions. It includes some of the most fertile and healthy regions of Eastern Africa, though the paradisaic qualities ascribed by enthusiastic travellers to these regions are predicated only of the elevated plateau of the interior. The coast and the country for some distance inland have a reputation for unhealthiness which it is hoped may be found to be exaggerated. The task of opening up this district to civilization and commerce is unquestionably a Herculean one. The Company will find itself confronted with very formidable difficulties, not the least of which will be the deadly opposition of the slave-trading interest, whose unholy traffic it is bound by its charter to discourage, and, so far as may be practicable, to abolish. It is scarcely to be expected, either, that so populous a country can be taken possession of and opened up without serious conflict with the Arab tribes who inhabit it. But there seems every reason to hope that the result, in the not distant future, may be the addition to the world's resources of a section of a continent second to no other in its capacity for civilization and progress. The characters of the originators and present leaders of the enterprise afford, no doubt, ample guarantee that the very large powers entrusted to them will not be presently abused. It might be wished, in the interests of justice and humanity, that some security could be taken that these powers and possessions might never descend into less worthy hands.

THE Tibetan campaign in which victory has once more attended British arms, is not the only little war which the Government of India has just now on its hands. An expedition 8,000 strong, and composed of infantry, cavalry, and artillery is being fitted out, or has already been sent, to inflict exemplary chastisement upon the Akozais, a tribe of mountaineers on the borders of the Hazara district, in the extreme north-eastern portion of the Peshawur division of the Punjab. This tribe of marauding mountaineers has long been a thorn in the side to the peaceful and industrious inhabitants of the Hazara district, which is a part of the empire, and a force has had to be maintained for the protection of the inhabitants against the raids to which they are exposed. The audacity of the marauders culminated a few months ago in an attack upon a small detachment of the protecting force of Goorkhas in British territory. Two British officers were killed in the skirmish. After considerable hesitation the Indian Government has decided that punishment must be inflicted, at whatever cost. Hence the present expedition. As the crafty and warlike Akozais are likely to take refuge in the mountain fortresses, thence to sally forth at unexpected points and moments, the undertaking is not without both difficulty and danger, and the result will be waited with some anxiety.

THE presence and operations of the British in Egypt have during the last few years attracted less attention than in the more turbulent times that preceded them. The last yearly report of Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff on the public works which are being carried on in that country under British auspices and through the agency of British officials affords gratifying evidence that the work of civilization and emancipation is steadily pro-