

glers. Under the conditions I mention you could not prevent the use of that railway unless you should place customs house officers one hundred feet apart night and day, over and along that international line of nearly four thousand miles, and that would take an army of about four hundred thousand men.

Enough of what we might do to injure one another. We have been "fighting like devils for conciliation and hating one another for the love of God" long enough.

We are one people in very deed. We have a common origin and I believe a common destiny. Let me give you an illustration of our oneness. According to your census returns you have over 800,000 native born Canadians in this republic who have acknowledged their nationality, and goodness knows how many who have not, and counting their children born here, you might say there are almost if not quite as many Canadians in this country as there are in Canada. Canadian influence if united could easily turn the scale of any Congressional or Presidential election.

On one occasion a party of men met in a store or blacksmith shop at one of our inland cross-roads; the conversation as usual turned upon England's foreign policy and Canada's future; the question at issue for the moment was which was the greater power, England or the United States; one Jingo went so far as to say that the British navy could bombard and destroy New York City in forty-eight hours; whereupon one excitable old gentleman broke in "You d— fool what do you want to bombard New York for, I have four sons in New York."

Canada comprises forty per cent. of the area of the British Empire, and the union of Canada with the United States would be the signal for the breaking up of that Empire, that was carved out by the sword and maintained by force and repression.

Australia, New Zealand and the other colonies would follow the lead of Canada as nearly as may be, as they have always done in the past, but such a union would also be the signal for the reconstruction of that greater Empire under our protectorate, founded not on a selfish, social and political basis, but founded on love and natural affection and maintained by the pure milk of human kindness, for we would all love humanity more if we had greater knowledge and intercourse and less cruel artificial restriction and misunderstanding. There can be true federation around a principle, but there can be no true federation around a person or family. We have too many good persons and good families for any one of either to be held sacred or superior to all others.

I will now refer to the necessity for union and a few of the direct and material advantages that would flow to all concerned, viz.: Britain, Canada and this country. But owing to the length of time consumed already, I can only mention a very few points, but the material advantages are so many and apparent that it is sheer waste of time and an unfair tax upon your patience to go into figures at this late hour. But I have a manifesto or leaflet issued by "The Continental Union Club" of the City of Windsor, Ontario. I will give any one who may desire it a copy upon application.* I have read it carefully and I endorse every statement contained in it, so far as my knowledge of the subject goes.

I know there are a great many people in this country who hold feelings akin to hatred and enmity to Great Britain, and not entirely without cause, for she proved a most unnatural mother to

you, but that would have been forgotten and forgiven long ago, were it not that the smouldering embers are fanned into flame and fresh fuel supplied in the persons of the children of Ireland, who have been driven from their homes by conditions of life that are simply unbearable; but that cause of friction is fast being removed.

I have observed two ways of getting rid of an enemy, one is to kill him, and the other is to make a friend of him; the latter is the course I would advise in this case. You cannot lay anything to the charge of the British people they are a noble, generous and chivalrous race. Your grievance is against a class—the aristocracy, who rule and oppress not only Ireland but England through the supineness and lethargy of the masses in the name of the nation, and I am sorry to say your own land is not altogether free from that evil, for I would be sorry indeed to hold the people of the United States morally responsible for some of the acts of their representatives, although, of course, the people of every country must assume the legal responsibility for the actions of men whom they authorise or permit to act for them.

We now tax British goods as freely as we tax yours, and when the imposition of that tax was first suggested the Liberal or opposition party raised the cry that such a course would endanger British connection. Our leading Tory statesman, through his organ, promptly replied: "So much the worse for British connection," and that loyal sentiment was applauded from ocean to ocean. And that is just how loyal we can be when it suits our purpose.

This country and Britain must never measure swords, except verbally, and that is pardonable on both sides at election times. But speaking seriously, a war between these two great powers would be the most disastrous to human life and civilization that the world has ever known.

It is only through a complication of Canadian interests that the probable, I might say the only possible cause of war between the two countries could arise. Unite these countries under one flag, with a bond of common interests, and that dreadful possibility, war between this country and Britain would be forever averted; and not only so, but there would be a far more friendly feeling between all parties than exists at present. Britain can only claim our fealty and friendship now, as vassals, not equals. She would have our friendship then and of an entirely disinterested quality, without her present burdensome responsibilities, which she assumes with no hope of direct financial reward.

As for Canada—We would have our public debts assumed. We would have an influx of millions of enterprising, energetic American men, and untold millions of American money to develop our limitless resources. We would enjoy the rights of citizenship over this entire continent. We would have unrestricted trade and commerce with seventy millions of people. The last will and testament of Peter the Great would be a nullity, a mere historical curiosity for the dominant power of this earth, subject to our Creator's will, would be North America. We would be the sole and unquestioned arbiter among the nations of the earth, and the armies of the Russian autocrat or the half-brained German Kaiser would cease forever to menace the peace, development and freedom of our race.

The great American eagle would scream and soar aloft and survey the universe from an altitude heretofore unreachd. The great American press would brag of the new acquisition of population, wealth and territory, and thus advertise Canada

* See Appendix.