

fisheries and mines, with great maritime position and railway connections, with a sturdy and industrious race, all united to the best representative institutions, how can we be so craven as not to reach out for the glorious destiny that tempts us onward? Let us resent the imputation of Andrew Carnegie, who compared the "man of no country" to the Canadian, by a practical demonstration of national existence, and when the last throb of annexation dies away there will be heard behind it the voice of a Canadian spirit still speaking trumpet-tongued. We can dispense with English governors-general, and give half their salary to the poor. We will have power to frame our own treaties, to appoint our own diplomats, and, if need be, to declare peace and war. But there is no solid reason why two nations of common blood, institutions and laws should not live together on the American continent in peace and harmony. There is room for teeming millions, and the problems of the two countries can be better worked out apart. If countries like Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland and the Netherlands can maintain their own identity in the midst of "an armed camp," if they with less population and far less resources can each support a diplomatic corps, an army, and navy, and preserve intact their property and homes, surely we, in the free atmosphere of the new world, without emperor, without king, without great armies and great navies, without great debts and without great taxes, can sustain our individual needs. We have no use for enormous navies which foster a war spirit, and in that respect are an unmitigated curse. The protection of our fisheries and canals and the defence of our just rights will no doubt require certain naval expenditures, but we submit that every difficulty which a reasonable view of independent life presents can be fairly solved by judicious and honorable conduct. So far as our relations with England are concerned, let there be no misapprehension. We love her matchless history, we honor her people and respect her glorious name. Against Louis XIV. at Blenheim, against the Armada of Philip II. of Spain, and against Napoleon at Waterloo, she may be almost said to have thrice saved the liberties of the world. But Englishmen now, as of old, will acquiesce in whatever is best for colonial growth, and when the people of Canada want independence British statesmen will not be so foolish as to object. To oppose it would be a shame upon enlightened civilization, of which she has been the peerless exemplar. The history of the United States and of the South American republics is ample proof that in trade and commerce, literature and art, and in all those elements which go to make a nation great, an independent Canada would afford the freest scope for our energies, with no diminution of benefits to England. Every one must see that the confusion of British with purely Canadian interests in American diplomacy is a constant source of irritation; and without the military prestige of England we hold that Canada is just as able to man-