

Basin and the Western Territories once waved the lilies of France, and the greater portion of the North American continent then obeyed the apostolic sway of the Venerable François de Montmorency Laval. No wonder that from the shores of the St. Lawrence went forth many of the missionaries, discoverers and explorers of the country lying Southward; that the founders of many flourishing cities of the great Republic bore names familiar to our ear and illustrious in our annals.

Three eventful dates, 1759, 1775 and 1812, bear witness to a period of disagreement and warfare. But the scene has long since changed.

From the very dawn of the English régime in Canada, my predecessors in office have done their utmost to maintain the loyalty of their flock to the British Crown. And to-day, that the echo of the last shots exchanged between the rival brothers on either side of the boundary-line has long ago died away, I am happy to join with our fellow-countrymen in fraternizing with our peace-loving neighbors, and, above all, in rendering thanks to Heaven for such a long period of blessed and restful peace.

I have the honor to be

Yours truly,

+ L. N. CARDINAL BEGIN,  
Archbishop of Quebec.

Letters of similar tenor to the foregoing have also been received from the Primate of the Church of England, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, the General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, the Chairman of the Congregational Union, the Superintendent of the Baptist Home Mission Board, and others.

The Association, while expressing the desire that the programme for the religious celebration of February 14th next will comprise a divine service in the morning and another in the evening, leaves to the discretion of the Bishops of the various dioceses the character and order of the services to be adopted in their respective churches.

The promised co-operation of all the Churches augurs well for the success of the celebration. As an example of the attitude of the Catholic Churches in the United States, the following extracts from a letter from His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, addressed to the Hon. Alton B. Parker, one of the prominent officers of the American Peace Centenary Committee, may be cited:—

"I cannot refrain from expressing to you by letter my views anent the movement now on foot to promote closer and more amicable relations between England and this country, which embrace practically the English-speaking world. I am persuaded that the signing of a treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States would not only be a source of incalculable blessings to these two great powers, but would go far toward the maintenance of permanent international peace throughout the civilized world.

"Both of these great nations have many things in common. We live under virtually the same form of government. The head of one government is a King, the head of the other nation is a President; England is governed by a Constitutional Monarchy; the United States are ruled by a Constitutional Republic. And I believe that both of these nations have been more successful in adjusting and reconciling legitimate authority with personal liberty than any other country of the world.

"England is mistress of the ocean. Her ships ply through every sea on the globe. Her flag floats over every harbor of the world. Her Empire embraces a territory comprising 10,000,000 of square miles, or about one-fifth of the whole globe. Great was the Roman Empire in the days of her imperial splendor. It extended into Europe as far as the River Danube; into Asia as far as the Tigris and Euphrates, and into Africa as far as Mauritania. And yet the Roman Empire was scarcely one-sixth of the extent of the British Empire of to-day. It was Daniel Webster who, in a speech delivered in the American Senate about sixty-three years ago, thus described the extent of the British possessions: 'She has dotted the whole surface of