

breaking out upon the European continent we should find that our interests were identical or at least lay alongside of those of Russia and France. It would not be so if England were to withdraw from this continent. With that withdrawal would end as far as it would be possible the schism of the English-speaking race which began more than a century ago. Then the forces of a common language, a common law, a common literature, and a common religion would draw us and England together with all their peculiar and appropriate force. To-day we are divorced because she insists upon holding on to her possession upon this continent, invidious and essentially hostile towards us.

For that we have great authority. The Articles of Confederation included a clause that at any time Canada could become a member. Our army in the Revolutionary war was called the Continental Army, because we proposed to include the entire continent. When we came to the peace of 1783 it was Franklin who constantly insisted with the British negotiators that we should have Canada, because thereby only could we have peace. Our experience in 1812 is a pregnant confirmation of his prescience and his wisdom and the truth of his declaration, although peace has prevailed from that time until now.

Mr. President, the McKinley act, which places practically prohibitive duties upon the natural products of Canada, was a long step in the true solution of this question. Even before it was enacted great restlessness was being manifested in Canada because of their need of access to our markets free from any tariff restraint.

Whatever may be the course that is taken upon this bill, it need not be expected that the American people will permit its enactment to stand as a settlement. You may succeed in passing the pending bill and strike this blow at the welfare and future peace of the English-speaking race upon the American continent, but that race is too strong, too sagacious, too sensible to permit this temporary obstruction to stem the tide of its imperial destiny. The pending bill is but the ephemeral expression of forces essentially secondary. The primary and everlasting forces will speedily reassert themselves. Four years hence will see a President and Congress here that will tear the bill to tatters and re-nact laws and policies that are for the lasting welfare of all the people of this continent.