

It is not to be supposed that any considerable number of people in the United States would demand the abrogation of a solemn Treaty which was the result of protracted negotiations, during which both nations conceded extreme pretensions for the sake of peace; much less can we believe that Treaty rights would be disregarded, such as would clearly be the case if the measures of non-intercourse, indicated in the Message, were carried out.

If the measures, to which we have referred, are aimed at as a means of retaliation upon Canadians for either real or fanciful wrongs, it becomes doubly the duty of all dispassionate and right-thinking men, of all real lovers of their country, whether on this side of the border or the other, to examine the grounds upon which such grievances are supposed to exist; and if such do exist, then to adopt such peaceful means as will secure their removal. It may be safely affirmed that neither the Imperial, nor the Dominion Government, desire to strain the Treaty beyond the plain and obvious meaning of its text. If its language should be deemed ambiguous, or susceptible of more than one interpretation, then the obvious mode of solving the difficulty is by arbitration, and not by hostile threats or retaliatory legislation, which, if realized, cannot be otherwise than injurious to both peoples.

There are, unfortunately, individuals in the United States, who do not hesitate to recommend the adoption of a menacing attitude towards Great Britain. We have no apprehension that their counsels will prevail, but it is quite probable, that acting on imaginary grievances—on premises which have no foundation in fact—or referring to imaginary wrongs on the part of Canadians towards their fishermen, by the raising of an anti-British cry, that the people of the United States may endeavour to bring pressure to bear on Canada by a so-called retaliatory policy, which, most assuredly, will injure its own citizens even more than the Canadians.

In the message referred to there are many subjects dealt with which possess but little interest for our people. It need concern us but little as to what may be the opinions of President Grant about the Franco-Prussian war—the recognition of the French Republic—the negotiations with Spain, or the action of the Cuban insurgents,—but, while referring to these and other subjects of general importance, he reiterates the celebrated “Munro doctrine,” with which former Presidential messages and the sentiments of many American statesmen have made us familiar; and states that, “The time is most probably not far distant when, in the natural course of events, the European political connection with this continent will cease,” and advises that the policy of the United States should be shaped so as to accord with that coveted event. Such a contingency,

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