

While England will do its duty towards Canada irrespective of what America may do, let the Americans feel assured that we will rejoice to hear of a final settlement of their affairs, and of a war which has been almost as disastrous to Europe as it has been to America.

There can be no doubt that a war between England and the United States would be as disastrous to England as the civil war in America has been to the United States, even if we were to come off victorious. To say that there is no danger of such a war is ridiculous. Canada is quite defenceless, and what is more it is indefensible. The United States have an enormous army and navy which will soon be idle and in want of employment. They want something to re-unite them, and they imagine a foreign war would have that effect. These being the facts of the case, it is only crying peace, peace, when there is no peace, to say that there is no danger of war. The Americans have already taken one step towards war, in serving a notice on us to terminate the treaty of 1817, and the next step will be to cover the lakes with gun-boats. No; we must look to facts and not to professions of peace, and judging the question in that light it is impossible to shut our eyes to our danger.

The difficulty will be in persuading the Parliament of England to part with Canada for they are interested in holding it for the sake of the patronage it gives. But if the question of the Independence of Canada is made the turning point at the General Election in July next, we shall have such an expression of public opinion in favour of the measure that the Government will be obliged to yield.

I trust I have done my duty in pointing out what I believe to be a threatened calamity of incalculable magnitude and severity, and how that evil may be prevented. If the advice I have ventured to offer is not taken, and if war is the consequence, perhaps it will be remembered that this tract was written and no man would listen to its warning voice. If England does not make the offer to Canada there is nothing to hinder the Canadians from petitioning England to make them independent. Both countries will therefore have themselves to blame, if they are involved in war when they might have prevented it.

72, Sloane Street,
London, April 19, 1865: