

3. A third reason, more frequently heard, is that our own safety, indeed our existence depends upon the supremacy of the British navy. If that be true what is it that protects (for example) Uruguay—with a population of a million; a peace army of 4,000; and no navy? What is it that protects Costa Rica—with a population of less than 400,000? What is it that protects every state from Mexico to Cape Horn? I know your answer—the Monroe doctrine. Very well, then it is not the British navy?

"No. But we are to depend for protection upon the United States?" In reply please observe, first, that you have abandoned your position that our safety depends upon the British navy; and then consider this Monroe doctrine a little. It is wrongly named. It should be called the Canning policy, for it was with the greatest difficulty that the great British statesman prevailed upon the American President to adopt as his own the policy in which the United Kingdom had such supreme interest. Please read Volume I. of these papers at page 149.

If neither Canning nor Monroe had ever lived, community of American interest would have produced the same result. Early in the 1860's, pending a boundary dispute between Chile, Peru and Bolivia, Spain sent a fleet to enforce certain claims against Peru, going so far as to assert a right to regain possession of her former colony. The effect was immediate—local difficulties were forgotten.

"The outbreak of hostilities between Spain and Peru.....caused the President" (of Chile) "to imagine that if Spain were victorious, the Spaniards would endeavor to regain control of South Americaand in 1865 these four South America republics (a) were united against such power as Spain could send across the seas to attack them" (b).

Community of interest has been forming such alliances ever since the world began. Monroe did not see that the United States had an interest in the sovereignties of South America until educated to the idea by Canning. Everyone sees it now. And THERE IS NO HUMILIATION IN THE FACT THAT CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE ABSOLUTE IDENTITY OF INTEREST WITH REFERENCE TO EUROPEAN OR ASIATIC INVASION OF THIS CONTINENT. That identity of interest makes invasion impossible. The United States will never need to help us, nor shall we have to help the United States. Nobody, while our interests remain identical (that is probably forever) will be foolish enough to attempt the utterly impracticable.

(a) Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

(b) Akers, *A History of South America*, p. 326 and see p. 507.