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HOW TREATY-MAKING UNMADE CANADA.\*

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THE progress of human ideas has shown that, as with all other sciences, the foundation of the Science of Diplomacy is truth, and it is a proud satisfaction to know that "artful distinctions" have been long since discarded by the manly and practical diplomacy of England; that the publicity due to a Constitutional and Parliamentary form of Government has impressed upon it that sterling characteristic of the national mind—a "love of right, a hate of wrong," and a contempt of gain bought by the sacrifice of honesty. And if, in the course of a long and honourable career, England has committed errors; if, in her own despite, by the force of currents unknown to mariners, she has been driven from "the straight or right way," no ignoble or mercenary motive can be charged against her. Her errors point in another direction. Truthfulness can never be excessive, but there may be an excess of frankness, and an excess of generosity, pernicious as affecting the interests of others. But, if chargeable with errors such as these, she has ever shown herself ready to repair them; she has never shirked re-

sponsibility to foe or friend; she has been munificent in reparation, and she can afford it; she can point to the magnificent structure she has raised, to the wealth and to the power of the Empire, and, great in all things, acknowledge great errors, redeemed by still greater sagacity, and reply to the *persiflage* of a school of foreign negotiators, which is not altogether extinct, with a light proverb in their own language,—"*Il rit bien qui rit le dernier.*"

It is the purpose of this paper to review, briefly, such of the diplomatic transactions of England as affect the Dominion of Canada, and to invite the attention of Canadians to the purport of Treaties which, having been made between England and other countries, are still in force, and continue to exercise a potent influence on the present prosperity and future destinies of Canada.

The Treaties to which we shall refer may be thus briefly summarized:

1st. The Treaty concluded at Paris, 10th February, 1763, by which the Canada of France devolved to the British Crown.

2nd. The Treaty of 1783, also ratified at Paris, the 3rd September, by which the Independence of the United States of America

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\*A paper read before the Literary and Scientific Society of Ottawa.