

but the settlement being the result of an agreement concluded between the governments of Great Britain and the United States, over the head of Canadian authorities, it could hardly be called a bone of contention between Canada and the United States.

* * *

In no instance whatever has Canada brought Great Britain in clash with the United States. She has never caused even the slightest degree of trouble or estrangement between the two countries.

This is peculiarly remarkable in view of the fact that Canada is the part of the British Empire most closely connected with the United States,—the two countries being divided by an imaginary line, much over four thousand miles long (counting the boundary of Alaska).

Of course, it would be puerile to pretend that the relations between the two countries have always remained *au même diapason*.

There were occasions when the smaller nation thought that the bigger one had a slight disposition to bully her.

Naturally, demagogues, politicians, panic-mongers, flag-waivers, and various other species of dealers in cheap patriotism, have not failed, at times, to hit hard at the "Yankee"—just as, at the other extremity of the field of politics, disappointed politicians or despondent thinkers have occasionally fallen into the advocacy of national or commercial union with the United States. But, on the whole, it can be accurately stated that the vast majority of Canadians are equally determined to preserve the integrity of their Canadian nationality and to live on terms of peaceful rivalry and friendly relations with their powerful neighbours to the South. Annexation would be regarded by most Canadians as detrimental to both countries; a war between the two countries would be abhorrent to all.

All these facts and features, enlightened by over a century — as far as both countries are concerned — of friendly relations, should be of good omen for the future. Why should Canada, when a nation or a free partner of Great Britain, prove to be a more troublesome neighbour to the United States than she has been as a self-governing but externally irresponsible colony?

* * *

Naturally, if both countries want the future to be worthy of the past, they must remain true to their best traditions and resist firmly the temptations of greed and the appeals of jingoism.

Canada should be clear sighted and patriotic enough, and have a sufficient degree of self possession, to discourage the tremendous pressure now brought to bear upon her to drag her in the folly of naval armaments, either by contribution to the British fleet or by the organisation of a navy of her own, for which she has not the slightest need.

On the other hand, the people and government of the United States can do much, either by action or by inaction, according to circumstances, to develop the good feelings of their growing neighbours and educate them in the process of building up a peaceful, progressive, truly christian democracy. They can do as much to spoil them forever.

The influence of the United States in Canada is considerable and far-reaching. The contiguity of their territories; the community of language and origin; the natural co-adaptation of climatic and economical conditions, which brings an enormous exchange of goods, under all degrees and kinds of customs' tariffs; the constant interchange of population, now much more equally balanced than formerly; the enormous circulation in Canada of American journals and publications of all kinds:— these are all causes which tend to make of Canada, in many respects, a replica of the United States.