

sion of a latent sentiment on the part of the American nation not altogether friendly to her motherland. I would say without any hesitation at all that the sentiment which prevails among the American nation is a sentiment of affection, and of reverence, though unfortunately there still remain many causes of friction between the two nations. The memories of the unfortunate state of things which prevailed under the old regime, and which led to the war of independence, have not altogether been forgotten. The rancour created by the war is still living in the minds of the American people. This might have been cast away, but unfortunately, as we know in our own generation, there was a civil war in America—a civil war waged, I am sure in the minds of all men to-day, for as noble a cause as ever excited men to fight—for the abolition of slavery; yet it is a matter of history, strange as it may seem to us in these days, that at that period the sympathies of the civilized world were not inclined on the side of the cause of freedom. If I may be permitted to speak my own mind—and I do so, because what I state here I have often stated in my own country, and I do not know how to flatter—I have always said in Canada that the attitude maintained by England and by Canada was neither worthy of Canada nor of England at that time. But if there were a spirit of friction, rancour and enmity at work at that time let me say at once that those enmities have been, to a large extent, removed by the conduct of the Queen of England herself. In the worst days of the war, when the opinion was prevalent in the United States of America that the English people were not as friendly to them as they ought to be, the opinion was also prevalent that the heart of the Queen of England was engaged on the side of liberty. In the worst days of the war, in a poem addressed to the English people by the most American of all poets, J. G.

Whittier, while reproving England for her want of sympathy for a cause which has always been dear to the heart of Great Britain, he paid this warm tribute to her Majesty:

We bow the heart, if not the knee,
To England's Queen, God bless her.

Only a few years later, at the close of the war, when the hand of the assassin struck down the great and wise man who had carried his nation through the awful crisis, the Queen herself, then in the first years of her own bereavement, sent a letter of condolence and sympathy to the wife of the martyred President. That letter from a widow to a widow appealed to the American heart. It brought tears to the eyes of strong men. It caused tears to stain the faces of many veterans. Sir, this letter of the Queen did more to erase the bitterness that had been caused by the attitude of the British people than anything else could possibly have done. There is more. At that time we did not know, as we do now, the history of diplomacy on this matter, but we know now, thanks to the researches which have been made, and on a previous occasion—on the occasion of the unfortunate Trent affair, when the sacred soil of England—because her ships are part of her soil—had been invaded by Americans to abstract forcibly from the soil of England men who were guests of England—when the dignity of England forced them to claim back those prisoners, we know that the hand of her Majesty herself corrected the dispatch of her foreign minister and erased every offensive word from it, and left it in such a state that it was possible for the American nation to surrender without any surrender of dignity. Now, these causes have worked and have had their effect. I am sorry to say that there are still too many causes of friction remaining between Great Britain and the United States. Let me hope that better feelings will prevail. Nay, they are prevailing, even at this