

WHAT OF CANADA?

and it was the insistence of the Colonists which led her to abandon her claim to the Island and to accept Canada instead. And when the "Thirteen Colonies" began to complain of tyrannical rule from across the Atlantic, every effort was made for the "Fourteenth Colony", every means taken to show their friendship. In October 1774, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress voted to take into consideration the appointing of an agent to Canada to settle a friendly correspondence and agreement with Canadians; and soon Adams was congratulating Canadians on having "in common with other Americans the true sentiments of Liberty." The Continental Congress, too, in October, 1774, had in a letter to the people of Quebec condoled with them on their deplorable state which forbade them discovering "a single circumstance promising from any quarter the faintest hope of liberty" and urged them to send representatives to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia in May, 1775. This address was chiefly for the French Canadian, but the English Canadian was not forgotten. In the address to the People of England, September, 1774, the Congress deplored the unhappy condition into which the Quebec Act of that year had reduced many English settlers and could not suppress its "astonishment that a British Parliament should ever consent to establish in Canada a religion that has deluged your Island in blood and dispersed impiety, bigotry persecution, murder and rebellion through every part of the world."

When both appeals proved fruitless and the Colonies at length determined on a warlike expedition and Arnold made that Annabasis up the Kenebec and Catabasis down the St. Charles which but requires a worthy historian to be as celebrated as those of Xenophon and his Ten Thousand over twenty centuries before, he spread broadcast Washington's printed manifesto calling upon Canadians to unite with the Colonists "in an indissoluble union" to "run together to the same goal."

Benjamin Franklin and John Carroll who went to Montreal as delegates in 1775, were equally benevolent to the Canadians and if equally unsuccessful, that was not their fault.

When Canada remained loyal and when a generation afterwards in 1812 the United States found itself again at war with Britain (I do not discuss the merits of that controversy) and determined to invade Canada, great pains were taken by General Hull to make it clear that no harm was intended to Canadians, but that their good was sought;