

had been a matter of grave dispute. By the Treaty of Paris, in 1783, it had been left uncertain, or, at least, the American Government made that claim, and the friction had been so violent at times upon the border-land between the State and the Province as to almost lead to blows. Finally, in 1842, the situation became strained to such a degree as to render some settlement absolutely essential. The British Government sent out Lord Ashburton, a well-intentioned, but rather weak man, who seems to have been as thoroughly overcome by American expressions of love and friendship as the U. S. Senate was a decade later by Lord Elgin's champagne. Besides this, the physical force, profound air of conviction, and diplomatic astuteness of Daniel Webster, to say nothing of his unscrupulousness, were sufficient to make the result dangerous to the State represented by such a man as Lord Ashburton. And, unfortunately, the country chiefly interested was Canada. By the treaty, as finally settled, seven-twelfths of the territory in dispute was ceded to the United States; five-twelfths was awarded to Great Britain. And this beautiful piece of diplomacy was so arranged that Mr. Webster and the great Republic kindly accepted about 5,000 square miles less than was claimed by the people of Maine, the relinquished tract being largely a sterile waste. Lord Ashburton thus gave up to American greed a territory nearly equal to the combined areas of Massachusetts and Connecticut—a fertile and well timbered district, which includes the fruitful valley of the Aroostook. And upon what basis was the arrangement made? This came out later, and stands as greatly to American discredit and disgrace as does recently proposed retaliatory legislation or the laughable Chilian war on paper. While on a visit to Paris during the earlier stages of the discussion, Mr. Jared Sparks, the American historian, discovered an original letter of Benjamin Franklin, written to Count de Vergennes, regarding a map of North America, upon which the Count wished the then newly arranged boundary line of the United States and the British Provinces to be marked. The letter read as follows:

"I have the honour of returning herewith the map your Excellency sent me yesterday. I have marked with a strong red line, according to your desire, the limits of the United States, as settled in the preliminaries between the British and American plenipotentiaries."

After considerable additional research, Mr. Sparks found the map referred to, and promptly sent both documents to Mr. Webster. The red line in the map actually upheld the British contention, and was the one proof required to complete the justice of its position. Yet the U. S. Secretary of State withheld this letter and map until the treaty was signed, giving the Republic a large territory which did not belong to it. Upon the treaty coming up in the Senate, however, and discontent being manifested that still more of Canadian territory had not been obtained, Mr. Webster brought out the map as proof that if it was not satisfactory they would get little or nothing. Senator Benton said he had long been aware of other maps which proved the same view. So the growling ceased, the treaty passed and the United States became the proud owners of a large portion of territory belonging properly to another nation. Besides the happy result to Maine, 4,000,000 acres to the west of Lake Superior was also received by the Republic, as well as several valuable islands in Lake Superior. Thus ended another incident of American aggression.

For a brief period after these events even American hunger seemed to be satisfied. Then came the great Civil war, when the Southern States had to be reconquered, and until its close, with the exception of the Trent affair, the Canadas were allowed to rest and prosper. But in 1865 the Fenian troubles began. Then followed the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty and Canadian Confederation as the only means of escape from the inevitable result of continued American hostility to the disunited and scattered provinces. It is unnecessary to say much of the horde of turbulent spirits known as Fenians, which was let loose upon Canada by the cessation of the Civil war. For over a year there were rumours of contemplated invasion; for many months there were active preparations, drilling, arming and marching; for weeks the movements of these invading bodies were common talk. Yet nothing was done by the American authorities. Protests presented and evidence given from this side were alike useless. The invasion took place and was repulsed. Many Canadian lives were lost and millions of money spent, but with that spirit of injustice which has characterised all American diplomacy when Canada was concerned, the U. S. Government refused to include the question for compensation on account of this lawless invasion and in-