

On the whole, may it not be the right method of considering such a question as this, first *to take it on its merits*, and then adopt that mode of negotiation which would be judicious on the merits of the question. Is it impossible to remove the purely artificial obstructions of national pride, national jealousy, political antagonism, and party bias?

If such a solution of this question is impracticable, nevertheless its consideration in this way cannot fail to bring the fact into conspicuous notice, *that the larger part of the benefits named may be secured by treaty, without annexation, either by purchase or otherwise.*

Very truly yours,

EDWARD ATKINSON.