

. . . He tells her his farm contains over three millions of square miles, cleared and fenced ; his income is four hundred and sixty-three million dollars ; his servants are eight million negroes, one hundred thousand Chinese, to do the washing, one million Canadians, and fifty-six millions from every nation under the sun. . . .

He tells her that this boundary fence is unnecessary ; that she is too young to control such a large estate, and keep in order so many nationalities and creeds. If she will cast in her lot with him she shall bear his name ; he will till her lands, fill her forests, work her mines, catch her salmon, seal and herring, and do all her marketing. His picture is so glowing that it looks as if Canada would "Repose on flowery beds of ease," could this union be accomplished ; and some thoughtless Canadians, while not desiring the match, rather enjoy the courtship, and advocate a lowering of the line fence, as they think we would benefit by Commercial Union, and yet be true to our country. To me, this C. U. scheme seems a sort of engagement ring, and if Canada accepts it, she will eventually be absorbed, and form a part of the United States. . . . Just at present we might be benefited by such a union ; but would we be the gainers in the end ? It would inevitably lead to annexation ; and would that be a benefit to us ? Let us see. They are our superiors in nothing except population and available capital. They 'ave got rid of their last acre of public land ; we have millions yet to be surveyed ; their fisheries and great timber areas are inferior to ours ; their natural wealth is great, ours is only being discovered and seems exhaustless ; their educational system, divorce laws, judges, and civil laws are in many ways inferior to ours. Statistics show that a very small percentage of criminals are punished for

their crimes. Here, it is the exception if a criminal escapes. . . . Shall we sell our birthright for a mess of pottage under the name of annexation ? Shall we barter a country, stretching from Gaspe to Vancouver, with a glorious future in sight, for Commercial Union ? There are eleven Americans to every Canadian ; but it is not for our benefit they press for Commercial Union ; it is not us they want, but our country. Shall we let them have it ? Before answering this I wish to look at the situation from another point. We have had it from a purely Canadian one, involving Canadian interests alone. But while we are Canadians, we are bound by the triple tie of kindred, association and allegiance, to the British Empire, of which we form a part. Let us look at it from a British Canadian point of view. The British Empire covers one-sixth of the earth's surface, and rules one-sixth of the world's inhabitants ; 200,000 seamen, in 30,000 trading vessels, carry her commerce to all parts of the world. Her navy has long ruled the wave. Max O'Rell says, "Britain fights to make peace." She has done more to civilize the world than any other nation :

And still she throbs with the muffled fire
Of a Past she can never forget,
And again shall she banner the world up
higher,
For there's life in the old land yet.

Her history, though not faultless, has been perfected through sorrow and suffering. Her 1,000 years of experience has taught her justice, mercy and patience, and these form the groundwork of her national character. To her belongs a long list of those

Deathless names that shine and live,
In arms, in arts, and song.

And this Britain is the mother who nursed our young colony, and gave us protection, even at the peril of her existence. When deserted by the