

irksome and we have endured it too long. If we had only been in a condition to assert our rights we should long ago have demanded of Great Britain to cease her offensive military preparations upon our borders and if she refused we could then have precipitated the war and captured the country before her preparations were completed. It is obvious that these offensive armaments are meant for us and that no other country is their object. England, by the possession of Canada, threatens the United States, as by the possession of Gibraltar she dominates the shores of the Mediterranean and becomes a standing menace to all southern Europe.

As we fought for the preservation of the Union, so, in such a war, our sons would fight for American unity. To paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln, when, as yet the country was but dimly conscious of the nearness of the impending crisis, North America cannot remain half American and half British, either it will become all American or all British. We inhabit one country. The line of separation is an imaginary one—a fool's line, as Mr. Murray calls it. The St. Lawrence and the great Lakes should not only be used by one people, they should also be owned by one power. We cannot expect the sixty-five millions of this country to go over to the five millions of Canada and with them become tributary to the thirty-eight millions of Great Britain. There was a time in 1760 when these two countries and all English speaking people owed allegiance to Great Britain alone. For years before that, during the long wars between England and her colonies on one side, and France and her colonies on the other, France had continually threatened these English settlements on the Atlantic coast, and sent down her soldiers and her Indians to make war on us, to burn our dwellings and tomahawk our women and children. We captured the great French strongholds Louisbourg, Quebec and Montreal, and terminated the power of France on this continent. In doing this work we were assisted by England to be sure, but our fathers furnished twenty-five thousand men, by far the heaviest contingent. By their action we gained some right to a voice in the disposal of the territory of North America.

In 1760 there were 60,000 French in Canada. Their descendants now number 2,400,000.

The marquis of Lorne, the late Governor General, says they will not amalgamate with us, that they, separated by a century and a half from France, and never having known England, will not become American, but preferring the cold climate and poor soil of the territory about Lake St. John, will locate there and establish a distinctly French Canadian state, speaking only the French language, and at the

state that prevailed in France under the Bourbon kings. In effect my lord says they are incapable of progress, and in this he is mistaken. They do readily amalgamate with the American people and become industrious and thrifty citizens. Those living here did their duty in the war for the Union according to their numbers. They are fast drifting into the current of American progress and American civilization. Like their English, Scotch and Irish neighbors in the Dominion, they like the wages which they can earn under the star spangled banner; and of that 2,400,000 of French descent 800,000 or fully one-third have already crossed the border and united their individual fortunes with those of the Great Republic, a method of annexation thus far mutually advantageous. Besides the French, Canada contains in round numbers a quarter of a million Germans, as many more Scotch and a million each of Irish and English. Of these many are outwardly loyal to the British connection because they think it will continue, but in their hearts their ideal is to belong to the great American commonwealth and partake of its prosperity. The ancestors of many of them now living in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario once lived in Massachusetts and New York. They, too, are coming every day to better their condition. These people make good citizens and after annexation in half a generation will become thoroughly Americanized. Self preservation is the first law of nature and of nations, and in obedience to that law America cannot permit any great and hostile military power to be erected in Canada.

Annexation must come and continental unity will be achieved. War, if Canada or England choose to bring it on, will hasten that result. I have no great confidence in the statesmanship of the "ripe plum" theory of annexation, that Canada when ripe will drop into the lap of the Republic. I am inclined to believe that only by war will it be brought about. European states unite only as a result of war, peaceful unions do not take place. If it must be by war, the more sparse the population the less the resistance. "We want no conquered Polands" it is often said. Senator Hear says British Columbia contains about 60,000 inhabitants or less than two wards of the city of Boston, certainly not a very populous Poland. We want no people within the Republic against their will; we want no hostile territory adjoining us without, upon which England or any other power can hold pistols or point Krupp cannon at our heads.

If in 1861 there was good reason why no rival nation should be built up in the South, there is the same reason now why no hostile power should threaten us on

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