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The Destiny of Canada.

Like our neighbours in the United States, we are apparently on the eve of an election. On both sides of the border, politicians are declaiming on the destinies of their countries, and it is interesting to note the wide divergence of opinions expressed by platform orators as to our future. Our own public men are very right in assuring us that Canada has become what Sir John A. Macdonald hoped for—"the right arm of England" and "a powerful auxiliary to the Empire." But Mr. Bourke Cochran and the Democratic leaders when protesting against the policy of Imperialism and entangling alliances with European powers are informing their hearers that the true destiny of Canadians is with the United States, and that expansion in the right direction means extension of the territory of Uncle Sam to Baffin's Bay.

However, patriotic sentiment and political vapourings will not change the destiny of this Dominion. All the signs of the times seem to show that sentiment in Canada inclines towards closer union with the mother country and representation in the Imperial Parliament rather than to the annexation or absorption by which the United States would be bounded on the north by Baffin's Bay, and by one of the extremities of the earth's axis so frequently and vainly sought for by hardy navigators and intrepid explorers of the frozen north.

The Australian Federation. An Australian contemporary pleads to "the restless race that for centuries has been spreading itself all over the world" to join in building up the new Australia, and adds:

As to Canada "our Lady of the Snows," as a modern poet calls her, there is no doubt that, since she became a federated Dominion, Canada has been more popular with the migratory people of the old world than she ever was before. But she has been enjoying this privilege for many years, and there is now, as an aggressive competitor for old world attention, another federation in the southern seas. If federation did so much for "our Lady of the Snows," why should it do less for the great south land of many climates, the island continent now about to assume new importance in the eyes of the world as the

Commonwealth of Australia, eager to develop her magnificent resources under a constitution claimed to be the freest and most liberal in the whole world.

The Latest Massacre of Missionaries.

It is to be hoped that the latest horrible story of massacre in China may prove to be only another illustration of the brutality of yellow journalism. There is quite enough to sadden humanity in reading of the destruction to life by tempest at Galveston and by plague and famine in India, without having our feelings harra-sed by unscrupulous correspondents, who, with nothing apparently to go upon, except their own imaginings and some rumors, relate hideous tales of massacre, outrage, riot and anarchy. The same thoughtless sensation mongers who lured the world into assuming that all the foreigners in Pekin were dead, and that nothing could be done to save them, may have been the authors of the news of the massacre of the missionaries at Pao Ting Fu. Let us hope so.

Depressing Fire Figures.

The table compiled by the New York *Commercial Bulletin* from its daily records of fire losses shows that the summer months of 1900 are likely to be held in sad remembrance by underwriters for many years to come. Following are the figures, giving a comparison of the losses by months:

	1898.	1899.	1900.
January	\$ 9,472,500	\$10,718,000	\$11,755,300
February	12,629,300	18,469,000	15,427,000
March	7,645,200	11,493,000	13,349,200
April	8,211,000	9,213,000	25,727,000
May	11,072,200	9,091,900	15,759,400
June	9,206,900	6,714,850	21,281,000
July	8,929,750	11,426,400	13,609,100
August	7,793,500	9,703,700	10,298,250
Totals	\$74,960,350	\$86,829,850	\$127,206,250

The total is indeed depressing, and it would not be surprising if, during the next few months, several additions are made to the long list of small United States companies that have bowed to circumstances and withdrawn from the arena of fire insurance.