


## PREFATORY NOTE

O apology is needed for the appearance in this form of the eloquent address delivered before the Canadian Club at Boston, Dec. 4th, 1905, by Mr. J. S. Willison of Toronto, the well-known Canadian journalist and author. The circumstances which have led to its republication may, however, be briefly explained.

That the friendship existing between Great Britain and the United States may be sincere and permanent is the hope of every well-wisher of both countries. Their amity is a factor in international policy which makes for peace and the best interests of civilisation. Canada, as the most important self-governing colonial state of the Empire, and the nearest neighbour of the great Republic, has a potent influence in preserving the good understanding that has so happily developed in recent years. Thousands of Canadians reside in the United States. They remain staunchly attached to their native land, and are apt to remember the past, as Canadians at home are disposed to do, for its angry controversies and apparent injustices, rather than its peaceful and honourable achievements. Every speech that allays these memories and lays stress upon the natural affiliations and common interests of Canada and the United States is a true act of statesmanship. Mr. Willison's address at Boston is a most courageous and notable deliverance upon the duty of Canadians in respect to the broader interests of the British Empire.

The venerable Canadian statesman and jurist, Sir James Gowan, K.C.M.G., struck with the importance of the address as a contributory influence in a movement which he has long had at heart—a cordial understanding between the Empire and the American Republic—suggested its being brought to