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ADDRESS.

Permit me to discuss with you for the brief hour of our conference, a treaty which ought to cover more points of difference between two great nations; adjust more and difficult questions of right; be more momentous in its effects for good or evil, than any treaty ever concluded, saving, perhaps, the treaty of Peace between the colonies of Great Britain and their mother country, which established our independence and existence as a nation. I am now speaking to a most intelligent audience of a most intellectual city, in the centre state of the arch of the Union, to a people who are supposed to examine with the utmost vigilance, so that they may approve or dissent from every act of their government.

The first question, therefore, I wish to ask is: How many of you have ever read the Treaty of Washington? the product of the late Joint High Commission. If this audience has not read it, and each will answer for himself, then, how many of the people of this country have ever read it, or have any substantial knowledge of its provisions? And yet we are told by newspapers, whose editors have never read its provisions themselves, that the Treaty meets the entire approbation of the people of the country, and we pass resounding resolutions in party conventions, sometimes very effectively in the small hours of the morning, approving of each and all of its clauses! Substantially all knowledge the country has of the Treaty of Washington is derived from the publication of a supposed copy surreptitiously obtained by a newspaper correspondent, but which was pronounced in the Senate of the United States to be more or less incorrect. These observations are made as an apology in your minds for a somewhat tedious and didactic statement of the provisions of the Treaty.

It consists of forty-three articles, the first eleven of which concern the depredations upon American commerce by certain