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## BRITISH MINISTERS AT WASHINGTON

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THE new British representative at Washington, Viscount Grey of Falldon, succeeds to an inheritance on which both trouble and triumph have left their traces. What diplomacy could do to mend the old quarrel has, in the main, been done. But kinship does not necessarily mean friendship. Similarity of language and of origin will not in themselves produce peace and harmony. The traditional policy of England to bury the hatchet after a war was not effectively and quickly carried out in the case of the United States, and the Americans from the first sedulously kept alive all the bitter memories of the revolution. As early as 1820 the Washington mission was known in London as "the graveyard of diplomatic reputation". Even now it is not a coveted post. Lord Grey has had predecessors as able and accomplished as himself—

Stratford Canning, Lord Lyons, Sir Julian Pauncefote, Lord Bryce—and it is significant that under such men good relations were maintained and improved. The right type of diplomatist has never failed to gain the confidence of the United States authorities and for almost a generation Great Britain and Canada have been admirably served at Washington. The earlier periods of diplomatic history, however, are not nearly so satisfactory.

The first British Minister was George Hammond. The so-called treaty of peace in 1783 failed wholly to establish a basis for mutual goodwill. In fact it left every wound open, and for years England sent out no representative at all. Official intercourse, when necessary, was conducted through Phineas Bond, the British Consul in Philadelphia. This widened the gulf between the two Governments. The British resented the