

superior numbers. If driven to do it we could fight and die in unequal combats on our frontiers. We could retire to our river heads, thick forests and mountain fastnesses, we could even fall back upon our frozen regions; and we might, if our arms were blessed by Providence, in the end weary out the enemy and win an honourable peace and secure our independence. But is it not apparent that what has happened to the Virginians would happen to us? Our cities would be captured, our fields laid waste, our bridges would be blown up, our railways destroyed. The women of British North America, as remarkable for their beauty as for their purity of thought, would become a prey to a soldiery largely drawn from the refuse of society in the old world and the new. Our commerce would be destroyed, our improvements stopped, our whole society disorganized. But, whatever its issue, when the war was over, trust me that that portion of the British family who had sought our subjugation, who had shed our blood, traversed our country and outraged our women, would stand higher in our estimation, than that other branch of the family, who, from craven fear or calculating selfishness, had left us to contend with such fearful odds, who, false to the fraternal traditions of a hundred years, to the glorious unity of our common history, to the dead Englishmen and British Americans, lying side by side at Chrystlers Farm and Chateaugay, at Bloody Creek and Queenston, false to the modern union of hearts, not pens, ratified in the sight of Heaven in every large city of British America, when Queen Victoria's son, the future sovereign of this Empire, accepted the homage of our people, who hailed His Royal Highness as the representative of our Empire's unity, and who believed that protection and allegiance were reciprocal obligations.

Far better would it be, if this were to be the result of the amended relations which you propose, that England should at once say to North America, assume the management of your own foreign relations. Send your own Ministers to London, to Washington, or wherever else you please. We will admit you to the status of the most favoured nation, but we can no longer burthen our Treasury with your defence or hazard the contingencies of a more intimate union. When this was said, of course no Englishman could confront the world with the calm self-respect which marks his demeanour now. The Russian woman, who, to save her own life, flung her babes to the wolves, was slain by her friends and neighbours. This people might escape the punishment, but their turpitude would be none the less. On this point I speak strongly, but I speak as I feel. My life has been spent in developing the principles and policy by which this great Empire may be kept together; and, just when the Provinces, content with well regulated self-government and honourable imperial relations, are, perhaps for the first time in the world's history, proving that British Institutions as well as a British population may safely be transplanted, that an Englishman may go abroad anywhere, and carry with him veneration for his Sovereign, affection for his brethren, and love for his native land, and yet enjoy all the privileges of self-government under the old flag, is it not hard to see this magnificent system, of which the "Colonial Courts" and the Lan-