

THE CLEANING OF THE SLATE

FOR a hundred years hatred of England was the hoop which kept the states of the American Union together. It served its purpose, until organic union replaced that external force, and it has long since been discarded. Dread of absorption by the United States was the main incentive for the confederation of the Canadian provinces forty years ago. This contingency was ever present in the minds of the fathers of Confederation, for they had before their eyes Article II of the Philadelphia convention of 1787, which reads: "Canada, acceding to the confederation, and joining in the new measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to, all the advantages of this Union."

The disaster of war which overtook the United States in 1861, and the misgovernment which prevailed during the balance of the nineteenth century, all of which has been faithfully recorded on these pages, allowed the Canadian provinces time and opportunity to grow together into a well ordered community. Hatred and fear have vanished in company. The United States can now be as friendly as they like towards England without dread of disruption; and Canada is secure enough in the bonds of affection and obligation with the Empire to find only cause for rejoicing in that era of good government in the United States which is about to begin. For, in truth, there has been in recent years in that country such a revival of the public conscience, and a revolt against civic unrighteousness, as reminds one of the moral indignation which ended in the overthrow of the horrid institution of slavery.

For a generation the United States has served us as a warning. In the future it may serve us equally as an example, if it does not become weary in well doing. Already we have