

Nearly all Americans (and, curiously enough, most Englishmen) make the mistake of regarding the Canadians as a homogeneous nation, and of considering them, although separated by 3,000 miles of ocean from the mother-land, as British in thought and sentiment. It is this false impression which has kept friction alive, and rendered impossible a complete settlement of many vexatious problems. Fortunately, the High Joint Commission, for the first time in the history of Anglo-Canadian-American negotiations, approached the questions at issue with such mutual tolerance and with so great a desire to accomplish results, that it is confidently hoped that the relations between the great republic at the south and the republic (in everything but name) at the north of the North American continent will be much more amicable in the future than they have been in the past, and will result in an enlarged and more profitable trade for both.

The Dominion of Canada, the largest of all the British possessions, spreads from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west; embracing a territory of more than 3,800,000 square miles, and sheltering a population exceeding 5,000,000. Politically united, and nominally a nation, socially (ethnologically almost) Canada is nearly as unhomogeneous as Austria-Hungary. It is true the conditions in the Dominion are not so bad as in the dual Empire, because in Canada there are only two recognized languages and three races (broadly speaking); while in the Austrian Empire some half-dozen or more languages are used, each the speech of a race naturally antagonistic to all the others. To Americans who know Canada as a vacation-ground only, to Englishmen to whom Canada is an absolute mystery and who associate it with furs, ice-palaces, and, in these later days, gold-mines and tales of marvellous adventure, this may seem a remarkable assertion. Canada, partly on account of her past history and partly by reason of her geographical position, occupies a unique place in the British Empire. In India, an Englishman, whether on the frontier of Afghanistan or in Madras, is always an Englishman, and he always talks English. It is the same in Australia, in Africa, in Egypt—everywhere in Greater Britain, in fact, except in Canada.

To understand this, take the map of the Dominion and run a line on the seventy-ninth degree of longitude west from Greenwich, and another, bisecting Lake Superior, on the ninetieth degree. This divides Canada into three parts, leaving out, for the time being, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The eastern division, the Province of