

Great Britain was responsible for the well-being of the colony and pledged to protect it from all danger? Of partnership on the part of the colony with Great Britain there was no thought. The strong parent protected a weak child.

By 1850, however, Canada had between three and four million people, a larger population than that of the American colonies at the time of the Revolution. By 1850, too, it had been established, and not without strife and bloodshed, that the legislature of Canada should control completely its internal affairs. For the first time, Canada had a real cabinet. On all purely domestic matters the Governor acted on the advice of his ministers. Outside affairs, however, he attended to himself. When, in 1854, a treaty for reciprocity in trade was to be made with the United States, it was not the Prime Minister of Canada, or any other Canadian minister, who went to Washington to negotiate, but the Governor himself, less as a delegate from the Canadian Cabinet than from that at London, whose nominee he was. In foreign affairs Canada was not supposed to have any voice, though, of course, the British Cabinet would not have imposed on Canada a treaty respecting Canadian trade which Canada did not desire.

The Civil War in the United States, lasting from 1861 to 1865, produced a great effect in Canada. In 1861 when an American ship of war removed from the British mail steamer *Trent* two envoys of the Southern Confederacy on their way to France and Britain and held them prisoners, the horizon was dark with clouds of war. The British government denounced as an outrage the seizure on the high seas of diplomatists who were under the protection of the British flag and demanded peremptorily that they should be released. It looked for a time as if war must follow. Should this happen Canada would inevitably be attacked. It was mid-winter. No ships could ascend the frozen St. Lawrence to Quebec and no railways as yet connected Halifax or St. John, ports open throughout the winter, with the menaced frontier of Canada on the upper St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes. It was difficult in such circumstances to send British troops to the point of danger, but from the task the British government did not shrink. British regiments were sent across the sea to Halifax and they went overland in bitter cold in order to reach quickly the points of chief danger near and beyond Montreal. There was no shrinking from Britain's responsibility to defend Canada, and Canada accepted this defence in the spirit that a child shows to a guardian parent.