

In recent times, a number of writers in the United States have formed the habit of discussing in the publications of that country the destiny of this one. When the reciprocity agreement was defeated in 1911, the assertion of Canadian and British sentiment which accomplished that defeat puzzled not a little the observers across the 49th parallel, and since that time many have been at pains to explain the decisive votes of 1911 in such a way as to smooth the ruffled feelings of those who resented the idea that Canada should refuse to meet the United States half way in the matter of trade relations.

In the current number of *The Forum* of New York, Mr. C. S. Smith, an American writer, publishes an article entitled "What will become of Canada?" in which he endeavors to answer this daring question out of the wealth of an experience gained by spending most of last year in the Western Provinces. As might be expected, Mr. Smith's article is filled with curious misunderstandings and errors, some of which are so glaring as to call for reply.

"Eastern and Western Canada are widely separated," he says. "There seems to be little bond of union between them." Here is a mischievous and ridiculous statement, which it is not hard for observant people to refute. At the present time, for instance, the press of Eastern Canada is most emphatic in its support of the Asiatic exclusion policy of the people of British Columbia. The West is filled with Easterners, and the communication between the two parts of the country is constant and unvarying, giving the best evidence of a tie of the strongest possible kind. Neither the attitude of East to West nor the attitude of West to East, in so far as one may note a division of the country, is sufficiently lacking in understanding and sympathy to cause anything like friction in the relations between the two halves.

In Canada, this writer found what he labels a lack of patriotism and British sentiment. He gives a curious illustration, which is sufficient to explain his case. He stood with a crowd of 20,000 people on the Vancouver docks last summer as the battleship "New Zealand" entered the harbor. The lack of cheering he accepted as evidence of a lack of patriotism or enthusiasm for the British colors.

When will some of these gentlemen learn that noise is not patriotism, nor shouting enthusiasm, nor yelling loyalty? As the great dreadnought "New Zealand" entered the Vancouver harbor, flying the British colors, every Canadian in the crowd would experience a thrill, beyond doubt. It is not the custom of this country, however,—and some of us are not sorry that it is not,—to give outlet to every emotional feeling by way of the lungs. Had friend Smith been in Canada in the days of the South African war, when there was something in the air too strong for ordinary mortals to resist, he would have heard all the noise he wanted, and more.

Further, Mr. Smith finds that Canada is laboring under the British "yoke," so to speak, and that Canadians like Americans better than Englishmen. \* He adds: "While the rule of Great Britain over Canada is largely imaginary, there are enough disagreeable Englishmen in Canada to keep the Canadians constantly stirred up by suggesting that Canada 'belongs' to Great Britain." Why not put it this way: that there are enough good Englishmen in Canada to keep Canadians constantly stirred up by suggesting that England's glory belongs to Canada, if she wants it?

It seems to be impossible for an outsider to visit any country and write his impressions of the people without "treading on the toes" of those he writes about. But the wise man who essays this delicate task will not spend about a year in one section of the country and then set out to answer the question: "What will become of these people?"