

THE NORTH AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD.

"Let us thank Heaven for our neighbors to the north of us!" exclaims The New York Sun. The occasion was the publication of the address issued by the Executive of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association, on the one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Ghent, on Christmas Eve. "May many more centuries of peace follow it!" said Sir Edmund Walker and Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, speaking for **Canada**. "May no century except of unbroken peace ever follow it," responded The New York Sun for the United States.

The people of North America do well to cherish this unprecedented and unparalleled situation: two nations equal in racial sensitiveness and in national ambition, equal, too, in geographical area and in material resources, but utterly unequal in developed wealth and in military power, living at peace along a boundary line of nearly four thousand miles through a full century of changes and upheavals on both sides—the world's only example of an international neighborhood covering nearly a continent. Facing the ravaged and blood-soaked boundaries of the nations in Europe's jungle, even the pessimist and the cynic in the United States and in **Canada** might join in thanks to Heaven for the North American neighborhood.

And the end is not yet. What has been accomplished by these two democracies in North America is only a prelude to a far larger achievement. The North American idea will yet permeate Mexico and the South American Republics. The hope and the patience of the United States with the turbulent parties in Mexico will yet be rewarded, and the Rio Grande will be as unvexed as the St. Lawrence and the Niagara. The new nationalities growing up in South America will yet each find its own unity, and from **pole to pole** there will stretch the Pan-American neighborhood of freedom and peace. In that coming democracy of American neighborliness **Canada** will count one.

But in the larger day, the day of world-neighborliness, **Canada** ought to count for more than one. The opportunity and the obligation of **Canada** are becoming clearer both at home and abroad. The present situation in Europe only brings into the white light what students of internationalism had begun to see: the part **Canada** ought to play in the inter-relations of the nations with which this Dominion is bound up, not alone in the bonds of war, but in the truer bonds of blood and of institutions and of ideals. No Canadian has seen this more clearly or stated it more unreservedly than that internationalized American, Dr. Albert Shaw, in his editorial world-survey in the January number of the American Review of Reviews:

"The peace of Europe and of the world will be furthered by every step that improves the harmony of the western hemisphere on a non-military basis. World Federation will necessitate some subordinate groupings. The Pan-American Union may well grow in influence and in functions, until it has led the way to a far more perfect assurance of peace and stability in the western hemisphere than has yet been attained. **Canada's** destinies are here, in American latitudes and longitudes, and cannot be shifted. Her problems of the future, however, need not be considered in the light of any national rivalries or animosities. **Canada** is in a position to enjoy and benefit by the most perfect relations with Great Britain, the United States, and France. No other country in the world is so favorably placed. It may prove, also, that she may be the means of still further binding together in bonds of perpetual friendship these three great countries, with each one of which her past, present, and future are so inevitably associated."

And when the lesson of democracy is learned by Germany, as Britain learned it after the overthrow of the autocracies of the Tudors and the Stuarts, and France after the downfall of Napoleonism, the German citizens in **Canada** will be a vital bond with their kith and kin in the resuscitated Fatherland. There can be no world-peace until there comes at least the spirit of world-democracy. The power of that spirit, and its fruits in peace and justice and freedom, are exemplified and set forth before all nations in the experiences of the North American neighborhood. Let us thank heaven for neighbor nations.