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CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION ON
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

BY

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**CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES
MAY BROTHERHOOD PREVAIL**

PREFACE

A study of the American Civil War, in as far as it affected the British North American Provinces, is of special interest to Canadians. Believing that is a field of Canadian history in which comparatively little has been done, moreover one of much importance, I have endeavored to picture the trend of opinion in all parts of Canada at that stirring time.

From my study of the period, I believe that the American Civil War left its imprint upon the political institutions of British North America to a greater extent than has been generally recognized. A survey of the newspapers of British America seems to prove that the people generally were divided in accordance with party lines, the Liberals sympathized with the North, and the Conservatives with the South. The British North American Provinces realized that in the event of war between Great Britain and the United States, Canada must necessarily be the battlefield. Hence to Canadians the preservation of amicable relations became a matter of utmost importance. The American struggle, moreover, emphasized the need of a closer union of all the British provinces, and hastened confederation. An examination of the government correspondence convinces one that much of the credit for averting war must be given to the sanity of leadership on both sides of the line which divides Canada and the United States.

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