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 Garrison Lythnam  
 18. 96

Dear George,  
 Many thanks  
 for your letter, Dec: 29, which  
 reached me three days ago at Cadiz.  
 As you will have heard,  
 I am off again, for another three  
 months probably, with Lady  
 Shaftesbury, and her daughter &  
 Sophie Law, Lady & Lady Anne,  
 Kellie & the other crew on their  
 way overland, - Paris & the Ardennes,  
 & join here probably tomorrow.  
 I preferred coming with the ship,  
 & just as well I did so, as  
 the Capt. is a comfortable  
 sort of chap, & has been at

2,  
by the odds with every one.  
If I had not been here to keep  
the peace, they would have  
been pitching each other over  
board, all being obstinate & no  
argumentative & calm men. And  
there is a very comfortable yacht  
boarder, belonging to the Glasgow  
Allans, who with their char-  
acteristic imaginations have sent  
him off by the Academy for a week  
on a cheap cruise, & have decided  
to give the Capt. a portion of the  
pay necessary for pilotage &c. so  
I have been practising small  
advantages on all hands as of  
course it will be all right when  
Lady's comes on board, but  
it is very silly, & shortighted  
policy. We go for instance to  
Lanzarote, Gibraltar & Algiers. Then  
probably Sicily, Egypt & Palestine.

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The Canadian Govt would be well advised in stipulating in advance for a thorough rectification of frontiers, in view of the success of Maine & Washington State would both undoubtedly be taken, & it would be the prudent policy to give them back, as the former was in 1814, - since in any case the frontier would have afterwards to be fortified & held in a very different way than at present. What might happen in the central prairie region is more difficult to predict, but even there one might hope to push the boundary line South by a degree or two. That the sea coast could be held & the ports blockaded goes without saying, - in spite of Edison's

So far as I have been  
able to follow the American  
outrage of belligerency in  
the London papers, I agree  
with all you say. If it has  
to come, far better to come  
now than later on - Americans,  
especially the silly half educated  
writers for the press have  
the least idea what they are  
ramming their heads against.  
The English people as you  
know take a lot of stick themselves  
up at all - now, with this U.S.  
business & the later interference  
& rancorous hostility of Germany  
they are more stirred up than  
they have been for fifty years -  
If Canada does her duty,  
as I see no reason to doubt  
she will be able & efficiently  
backed up, both east & west.

offering machines & other such  
childishness. Personally I  
should immensely like to see  
those gentlemen cut throats attempt-  
ing to deal with an army corps  
or two of Indian troops, who  
fight because they love it, as  
their hereditary calling, and  
who fight to win. Why in  
India alone have all today, the  
Brit. Indian Army 230,000 (75,000  
white, rest natives, - all thoroughly  
efficient) Home State Armies,  
450,000 (half efficient under  
British officers), & 160,000  
gendarmes (armed & disciplined  
police force) - besides Reserves &  
absolutely unlimited field  
for recruiting new forces. What  
are of course not merely men  
with rifle in their hands, but  
thoroughly trained & experienced

I have been thinking much lately  
especially on the subject of

and in itself  
you will have heard that there

is some prospect of my getting  
concerned or better. We have no yet

an very definite plan, but are  
considering amongst others, the possibility  
of going to the States. What  
would you advise?

I am sure you will be very  
to all our friends about  
will all best wishes for the  
your first paper, & in case

of any other  
I am  
Yours  
[Signature]

fighting machines, provided  
with all necessary artillery,  
transport etc. 50,000 of them  
could be landed in Puget  
Sound & on the Columbia  
river. I wish after the order  
was given, that the war  
must depend of course on  
Canada's own preparedness,  
& it is sincerely to be hoped that  
the Can. Gov't will stop squabbling  
for long enough to get hold of really  
modern & efficient arms, especially  
artillery, & machine guns - and  
a day, it is a crime to send  
men to fight with inferior weapons.  
You ask about my cigar!  
It is a competition business & mine  
has gone in with some hundred or  
more of others. It will be months  
I suppose before results are  
declared. Of course I don't expect

to win, but it was worth a shot,  
especially as the subject interests  
me in itself -

You will have heard that there  
is some prospect of my getting  
married on return. We have as yet  
no very definite plans, but are  
considering amongst others, the possi-  
bility of going to Montreal. What  
would you advise?

Remember me very kindly  
to all at Lisjan Street -

With all best wishes for the  
year just begun, & kindest  
remembrances & regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Franklin