

country. A heavy responsibility rests on the late Governor-General who abandoned to Sir John Macdonald the last prerogative of the Crown. The fact is that a Governor-General thinks of little beyond having a smooth passage through his term, and making a good fund of social popularity, which the English take for administrative success and accept as a certificate for higher employment. Yet the Governor-Generalship, with its seven Lieutenant-Governorships, must, since Confederation, have cost us in the aggregate something like six millions. This would be a heavy price to pay for figure-heads however beautifully gilded. We may fairly expect that the Governor General shall, at all events, act as the guardian of the British North America Act and see that the people enjoy the rights and securities which it gives them. To be just to Lord Lansdowne, let us say that he reduced the expenses of his office as much as possible, paying for his own trips over the country, whereas Lord Dufferin's trips to the West alone cost the Dominion twenty-eight thousand dollars.

—The *St. Thomas Journal* asks pertinently enough why the national veto on local legislation should be essential to the preservation of nationality in the case of Canada when it is not necessary in the case of the United States. Our answer is that in the first place there are in the United States checks of other kinds upon State action which we lack. The Governor's veto, unlike the veto of our Lieutenant-Governors, is a reality and is often used. There is sure access to the Supreme Court, whereas we see what a shift government can do here. There is a power of amending the Constitution, which has been used for example to put an end to Slavery with its disruptive tendencies, whereas our Constitution is locked up in the keeping of an Imperial Legislature to which it is hopeless to appeal. Besides in the last resort the national government of the United States possesses and has used on the largest scale the power of coercion, whereas the Dominion has no such power, and Quebec