

assembly of Great Britain and Ireland has again obtruded upon our attention the undoubted constitutional fact that the Royal Line may be changed at will by a Parliament that is neither directly nor indirectly responsible to us.

And then we may reflect that, at least, we are a part of the Empire, though a subordinate part, and that we may continue at will to occupy our present subordinate place within the Empire, but even then the sober fact ever stares us in the face that we can be severed, by piece-meal or altogether, from the Empire, and politically united to the United States or, may be, to Mexico, by a political authority, which has ever repudiated the idea of being, or even of becoming, directly or indirectly, responsible to the millions of people who may now or hereafter inhabit the Dominion of Canada.

Mere local self-government has often been established in States which were controlled by absolute despotism; but mere local self-government is incompatible with the development of the highest types of individual character, of the most efficient organization of political institutions, and of the highest forms of modern civilization.

The instinctive desire of the races, from which the Canadian people have sprung, to acquire and conserve the rights and privileges of responsible self-government cannot possibly be rooted out. It was due to that instinct that the people of England demanded and obtained control through Parliament of public revenues and of public expenditures. It was due to that same instinct that the hereditary Second Chamber, the House of Lords, was finally deprived of even a scintilla of control of Government expenditures. It was due to that same instinct that Thirteen American Commonwealths, separated as they were into independent political communities, comprising a population of nearly three millions of people, declared their independence of the Crown, and thereupon organized a political union under which they themselves, through their own representatives, might absolutely control all matters of taxation or of contribution and expenditure. That same instinct is shared, in a pre-eminent degree, by the two millions of people of French-Canadian descent, who now inhabit Canada, and by the tens of thousands of people, who, in recent years, have left the United States to establish new homes in the North-Western Provinces of Canada. That same instinct is so potent that it would inevitably impair the fervent loyalty of