

"citizen of the world" or of a "citizen of the Heavenly Jerusalem"—expressions for which there is good warrant—political rights are, presumably, not connoted.

But while the introduction of new phraseology is to be deprecated, the discussion itself is opportune and useful. There is much haziness in the public mind as to the rights, and still more as to the duties, of British subjects, and it is always desirable to clarify our ideas so far as nature permits. In Canada the subject is particularly appropriate, for there is a vague feeling that we are on the eve of great political developments, and the problem of the navy has brought us back to the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

In the following pages it is proposed to examine shortly wherein British nationality consists, and what rights and duties it implies. The general reader does not need to be dismayed, for the law of nationality is more interesting than a novel, which, indeed, in these sad times is but faint praise.

Nationality is a status which the law imposes on persons at their birth, and sometimes at a later period also when people change their original nationality and become naturalized in another state. When lawyers speak of a status, they mean a condition to which certain incidents attach by law which cannot be varied by the agreement of parties. If a man becomes a British subject, it is the law which fixes his rights and liabilities in that character. He cannot take the rights and neglect the duties or, indeed, vary any of the legal conditions. So marriage is a status, because when people are married they have certain rights and duties which the law determines. They cannot agree to be married for a year, or that the wife shall be the head of the family. Understandings of this kind may exist *de facto*, but the law will not lend any aid to them. Nationality is a better example of a status than marriage, because a child has a nationality when it is born, though it cannot choose where it shall be born or whether it shall be born at all, whereas marriage has not as yet been made compulsory. We must take it with its legal incidents if we take it at all, but we may escape it altogether. So self-evident