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*"LITTLE ENGLAND"*

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Some people appear to think that the political opinions which are known as "Little Englandism" are confined to certain inhabitants of the British Isles. This is a mistake. The same kind of idea exists in Canada.

The root of "Little Englandism" is the incapacity of those who hold that form of political opinion to look beyond the borders of their own land. "Little Englanders" think that if England were to cut the connection between herself and the "oversea dominions" of the Crown and confine herself to the British Isles she could do so without loss of prestige. At present she is taking an active part not only in the government of the British Isles but also in the government of a considerable part of the globe besides. To concentrate all the attention of her statesmen and people on the affairs of the British Isles would, it is thought, by such people, be more conducive to the real interests of the inhabitants of those Isles, than to be acting the part of a policeman and upholding law and order in other countries, to say nothing of the cause of freedom. But it is the effective discharge of the policeman's duty which enables us to dwell in safety, and carry on our business unmolested. This spirit of "Little Englandism" is by no means uncommon. It is found in many religious congregations, some of whom think that their energies first and last ought to be confined to their own congregational interests. It is found in the village, and in the town, and in the city, and it all arises from an inability to look beyond the narrow confines and interests of one's own immediate surroundings.

It invades our provincial politics, and our Dominion politics. To the "Little Englander" the Province, or the Dominion, as the case may be, is the limit of his political horizon. If he is a strong provincial, the province ought in his eyes to be absolutely self-contained. An effusive townsman of a certain western town is said once to have proudly boasted that "the day will come when the town of ——— will take its place among the other great nations of the earth." So with the province, in