

## **Our Colonial Status—A Passing Phase**

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY C. H. CAHAN, K.C. BEFORE THE CANADIAN CLUB  
OF KINGSTON, ONTARIO, ON APRIL 24th, 1912

Peoples organize themselves into communities from an instinctive desire that, by the union or co-operation of their resources, they may enable the members of the community to live more complete human lives, and thereby attain not merely full physical or material, but full moral and intellectual development.

Christianity has emphasized the priceless worth and value of each human being, by asserting his personal responsibilities and duties, his individual rights and privileges. The establishment of the State and the organization of the Government of the State are but means, though absolutely indispensable means, for the co-operation of individuals, in developing the highest types of individual character, and the most complete and efficient social and political systems which may be possible under the ever-changing conditions of our ever-advancing civilization.

The whole tendency of modern political history has been toward the establishment of popular rights on a representative basis, by conceding to each member of the body politic a full share in the Government under which he lives, and by encouraging every citizen to develop a manly individual independence in the exercise of his public rights and privileges, and in the performance of his public duties and responsibilities.

The supreme object of our political activities in Canada should be to evolve and maintain such conditions as will make possible the attainment by our people of the highest ideals of citizenship. In laying the foundation of the Canadian Confederacy, the creators of the Union gave evidence that the people were fitted for popular