

It may be well to keep the Canadian fleet as a distinct unit in the whole, as a sign of national life and consciousness. The distinctive Scottish regiments have for generations been the pride and glory of their native land. Yet there are disintegrating tendencies at work which make men anxious for the future. And after having dwelt so long on the assertion of our distinctive individuality and rights it might be well to have some common sign of the underlying unity of the empire as a whole. What then could be better for the purpose than an imperial navy with its common flag in every sea throughout the world?

For once more we are urged to stand fast in the liberty wherewith we have been made free and not again to be entangled with another yoke of bondage. "Canada would at no price accept anything depriving it of its legislative autonomy." It has not been suggested that it should. Precisely the same difficulty was raised at the confederation of the Provinces on behalf of Quebec. The people of this Province it was feared might lose their nationality. But have they lost any of the rights or institutions peculiar to themselves, or any of their freedom? The very opposite is true. In becoming citizens of the Dominion, Frenchmen did not cease to be Frenchmen. They lost none of their distinctive features or privileges. By confederation the Province of Quebec did not lose its individual life; it saved it. So will it be with Canada as a whole and the other Colonies in the imperial system. To say, "I am a citizen of Canada," is to boast of no mean citizenship indeed. It has a wider outlook and interests than to claim, "I am a citizen of Quebec or of Ontario." But, surely, it is infinitely greater still, without any loss of autonomy or freedom, to be able to claim citizenship in an empire which covers one-