

with hostility, learned around that table to understand each other better. A new impulse had been given to their patriotism. Old feuds were buried in the aspirations for a new nationality. To persuade the people for whom this Constitution was prepared was the next task which confronted them. It was a victory not of one race, but of two races for the reconquest of Canada; they were entitled to a discharge with all the honors of war. Farewell, old city of Quebec; farewell, hospitable seigneur and habitant; farewell, old citadel with all thy memories of prowess and renown, thou hast sheltered the makers of a nation; thou mayest now write in golden characters on a scroll already historic, "Here was Canada born."

The Conference has adjourned, but not to idleness or repose. The Constitution which they framed was at this stage like Ezekiel's vision in the valley of dry bones, and the question to be settled was that asked by the old prophet, "Shall these dry bones live?"

Old Parliaments about to be superseded must now be consulted. What will they say? And if approved by them, the British Parliament must be consulted. What will it say? The work of the members of the Conference was not over. Their activity is now to be exercised in other spheres, in some to succeed and in some to fail, perhaps. But the Constitution of which they approved must not miscarry. So the forces of the opposing parties are again mustered, but in separate battalions. In the Maritime Provinces there was a mixture of victory and defeat; Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island would have nothing to do with the new Constitution; New Brunswick hesitated for a season, and finally accepted it. Nova Scotia was militant and antipathic. In Upper and Lower Canada, opinion was divided, and Parliament was called in February, 1865, that the voice of the people might be authoritatively expressed. It was the first meeting of Parliament in the new Capital at Ottawa, and like the Conference just closed at Quebec, it was a meeting of the past and future of two Canadian Constitutions. Was the old round table to be dissolved? It is not a conference of thirty-three members, but a Conference of one hundred and thirty chosen representatives of the people of old Canada, aided and advised by a Legislative Council, forty-eight of whom were elected, and twenty-three held their seats as nominees of the Crown. Well might we ask, shall the new Parliament Buildings of Canada be dedicated to our greater federation, or shall they continue to be the forum of the partisan and the bigot? The mace is on the table. The Speaker of the Assembly with the Sergeant-at-Arms at his side and the members of the Legislative Assembly around him, take their places. The Governor-General has taken his seat upon the throne. Silence reigns. A special session of the Assembly is being opened. "Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the Assembly". Hush! the Governor-General is speaking: