

...tions under which Parliament must approach
 It is open to us either to accept or reject the
 but it is not our function to tinker the fundamen-
 tal which has been negotiated between the Colonies
 such way as to change the spirit of the document.
 three points on which Mr. Cardwell suggests the pro-
 of reconsideration are by no means of equal import-
 The concession, within certain limits, of a power of
 to Lieutenant-Governors not appointed directly by
 the Crown would no doubt be a theoretical invasion of the
 of the prerogative, and a Minister would not be exceeding
 his functions in insisting, as a condition of Imperial sanction,
 that the rights of the Sovereign in this respect should
 be preserved intact. But the brightest jewel in the Crown
 is the least desirable of all its prerogatives. At home, it
 only means, in practice, the right of Sir George Grey to re-
 verse solemn decisions on the faith of random gossip, or in
 deference to popular clamour; and we are by no means sure
 that the embarrassing privilege might not be as well lodged
 in Deputy-Governors, in respect of all minor offences, as in
 the Governor who is vicariously clothed with sovereign at-
 tributes. This, however, is not a point on which any serious
 difference is likely to arise.

The constitution of the Upper House of the Federal Par-
 liament may have much more practical importance; but, at
 the same time, the objection which Mr. Cardwell suggests
 is, from its nature, one which could only be thrown out for
 the consideration of the Colonies. If the people agree to
 give the Crown the nomination of Senators for life, it is not
 for this country to reject the offer in favour of an Elective
 Council, if the change would be distasteful to those immedi-
 ately interested. The project, it must always be remembered,
 is a compromise between provinces with interests and
 feelings by no means identical; and it might be dangerous
 for an English Minister to disturb the balance, even by an
 alteration which was a manifest improvement on the scheme.
 Still the subject is unquestionably one to which it is not im-
 proper to invite the consideration of the colonists, though it
 is not quite clear that any substitute could be found more
 satisfactory than the Council which Mr. Cardwell seems to
 disapprove. His dread of a collision between the two House-
 ses is, we believe, chimerical. It is true the life-peers of
 Canada will not be guided by that traditional sense of their
 position which makes our House of Lords at once so conserva-
 tive and so pliant; but, on the other hand, it will differ
 less in its constitution from the more popular assembly.
 Class feeling has always yielded in this country to nobler, or
 at least more sagacious, principles of action. The House of
 Lords gave up its rotten boroughs, though not without a
 struggle, and as it increased in political wisdom it gave up
 Protection with a graceful alacrity. The same sort of wis-
 dom could not perhaps be expected from a new Colonial Sen-
 ate, but then it would never be tried by the same tempta-
 tion. The nominee Senate would in no sense represent a
 class, but would be composed of men of the same stamp, and
 with the same interests, as the mass of the Lower House—
 almost as much so perhaps as if its dignity were sacrificed to
 the supposed necessity of renewing its inspiration by peri-
 odical re-election. The working of either plan can be so lit-
 tle predicted with certainty that, if the colonists are really
 bent on enjoying the honours of a Council endowed with
 aristocratic permanence, there is no sufficient reason why
 England should thwart them, nor do we imagine that Mr.
 Cardwell contemplates any change in the project that would
 be unacceptable to the Provincial Legislatures.

The only remaining subject specially noticed in the de-
 spatch is in itself of the gravest importance, and might in-
 deed endanger the whole scheme if there were not every rea-
 son to believe that the doctrines enunciated by the Colonial
 Minister are precisely those which the statesmen of Canada
 intended to embody in their Report. The example of the
 United States has impressed Canadians, no less than
 Englishmen, with the utter futility of any Federation
 which leaves a debateable ground for conflict between the
 rights of the central Government and those of the component
 States. In case of difference, one must be supreme, and all
 the leading delegates at Quebec were (if their public speeches
 afford any criterion) of one mind upon this essential point.
 The ultimate sovereignty was to rest, not, according to the
 the American theory, in the component States, but in the
 Federal Government. And the heads of agreement on which

our legislation must base itself are quite as clear on this point
 as could fairly be expected in what does not purport to be
 more than a provisional document. A long list of matters
 of common concern is given, all of which, together with
 everything else of a general nature, are reserved for the Fe-
 deral Government. Then a number of local subjects, to-
 gether with all matters of a local nature not particularly
 specified are set down as within the exclusive competency
 of the several provinces. If it were possible to make these
 categories at once exhaustive and not inconsistent, the whole
 problem would be solved, but this would be beyond the
 power of language or of foresight. To meet the case of con-
 tingencies not expressly provided for, a sweeping provision
 is added, that in every case of concurrent jurisdiction the
 laws of the general are to supersede those of the Local Legis-
 latures. It is true that in even this, language does not cri-
 tically cover the whole ground, and that, in passing the Act
 of Parliament which will be the charter of British North
 America, some care will be needed to attain the requisite
 precision; but the spirit of the scheme is obviously to make
 the central Legislature the depositary of all power which
 is not expressly reserved for local action, and we believe that
 there need be no apprehension, on this vital question, of any
 difference of opinion between the Imperial and Provincial
 Parliaments. The co-operation of delegates from the several
 Provinces in framing the Act is properly invited, and will no
 doubt be given; and, if we may judge from the sense and
 moderation displayed by the Colonial statesmen in settling
 knotty questions of principle among themselves, there will
 not be much difficulty in adjusting matters of form and detail
 in concert with the Home Government. Already the spirit
 of the embryo nation is manifesting itself in the alacrity
 with which Volunteers are pressing to the frontier, with
 the immediate duty it is true of preserving the peace, but not
 we may be sure, without the resolution to prepare for war.
 Warlike ardour, indeed, has never been wanting on the Ca-
 nadian borders, and the official parsimony which has some-
 times checked it will not outlive the creation of the most
 formidable nation that ever rejected to call itself a colony.

[From the London Tablet.]

THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER.

We have the privilege to publish this week a full and
 carefully verified article on the subject of the Encyc-
 lical Letter of our Holy Father Pope Pius IX., to all the
 Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, and Bishops of the
 Church, together with the Catalogue of 80 Condemned Propo-
 sitions appended by order of His Holiness thereunto. The
 Infidel, Protestant, and Jewish Press of England and the con-
 tinent are so astounded at the inflexible courage and invinc-
 ible faith of every syllable of this great document, that they
 have not yet had time to rise to the full measure of their
 wrath and hate. Here is language loftier than Gregory's—
 here are pretensions higher than those of Sixtus! They
 thought the Father of the Faithful had learned the hard les-
 son of adversity, and that he was only imagining now how
 he could turn to account in some small diplomatic way the
 close conditions of the Convention of September. And lo
 from St. Peters his word goes forth into and against the
 world—word of which the youngest child now living shall
 not live to hear the last echo die away—a word that is
 among the weightiest and most far-reaching acts of this most
 memorable Pontificate.

There is as yet, we feel, some sense of superstitious awe
 about the way in which the critics, who particularly repre-
 sent the spirit of the nineteenth century, treat this Encyc-
 lical. We feel tempted to ask—What would they have?
 The Pope has uttered words about the meaning of which
 there times can be no doubt. There is no " Jesuitical " mys-
 tification, no amphibological casuistry here; it is all as plain
 as a table of turnpike tolls; it is a condemnation of the Re-
 volution in all its phases, forms, and principles—its false
 doctrines of government, its false doctrines of religion, its
 false pretensions of civilisation, its false propositions of phi-
 losophy. One and all, it smites them with the strong, sub-
 tle force of authoritative dogmatic truth. Why are the lights
 of the nineteenth century not glad with a great joy? Is not
 this awfully unwise of the Pope, according to the world's
 wisdom? Will it not form one common bond of union for
 every enemy of Rome? Is not every heretic, every schismatic,

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