

7. In the reciprocal sphere of their authority thus recognized, there exists no superiority in favor of Parliament over the provinces, but, subject to Imperial sovereignty, these provinces are quasi-sovereign within their respective spheres, and there is absolute equality between them.

8. The British North America Act, was not, as the constitutional acts which preceded it, a law made by the Sovereign authority of England imposing a constitution upon its colonies.

*a.* It contained a simple ratification by the Mother Country of the agreement entered into by the provinces, which in confirming its provisions rendered them obligatory by giving them the authority of an Imperial act.

*b.* Without attacking British sovereignty and without, in any way, hindering its exercise with respect to the Dominion, the appreciation of the relations between the federal government and the provinces, created by this agreement, thus made an Imperial statute, the distribution of the respective duties of the two bodies, and the interpretation of the statute, must be made as if the provinces had originally the right of their own private authority to enter into this agreement, and as if they had been sovereign powers.

*c.* The Imperial Government, which alone had the right to contest this fiction, renounced the same by retroactively legalizing their acts by its ratification.

This eighth and last proposition, which is the justification of those which precede it, and the foundation stone of my work, I will prove in a future letter, as well from the act itself, its comparison with the resolutions of the conference, and the discussion before the Colonial and Imperial Parliaments, as from a narration of the events respecting Confederation which took place both in Canada and in England.

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