

topics, how to avoid the fatal flaws in the Constitution of the United States, Macdonald celebrated the superior wisdom of the Quebec Resolutions as follows:

They [the Americans] commenced, in fact, at the wrong end. They declared by their Constitution that each state was a sovereignty in itself, and that all the powers incident to a sovereignty belonged to each state, except those powers which, by the Constitution, were conferred upon the General Government and Congress. Here we have adopted a different system. We have strengthened the General Government. We have given the General Legislature all the great subjects of legislation. We have conferred on them, not only specifically and in detail, all the powers which are incident to sovereignty, but we have expressly declared that all subjects of general interest not distinctly and exclusively conferred upon the local governments and local legislatures, shall be conferred upon the General Government and Legislature.³¹

Variations on this theme can be found throughout the debates. Following Macdonald's lead, Isaac Bowman contrasts the Quebec Resolutions favorably with the Constitution of the United States, and then goes on to assert: "In the scheme submitted to us, I am happy to observe, that the principal and supreme power is placed in the hands of the General Government, and that the powers deputed to local governments are of a limited character."³²

David Jones sees in the American doctrine of states' rights "the cause of the bloodshed and civil war" that has ravaged that sorry land for "the last four years." He then points out that "[o]ur case is exactly the reverse," in that instead of having the provinces delegate powers to the proposed central government, "it [the central government] gives to these provinces just as much or as little as it chooses." He then quotes in full the centralizing language of Quebec Resolution 45:

In regard to all subjects over which jurisdiction belongs to both the General and Local Legislatures, the laws of the General Parliament shall control and supersede