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## NATIONS WITHIN THE EMPIRE

AN ADDRESS

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BY-PRODUCT of the war is said to have been the birth of Canada and Australia and South Africa as nations. Others prefer to say that the war only led to the discovery of what has already long been the fact. Be that as it may, this is at all events true that there was no official recognition of the overseas dominions as autonomous states until the war, and that now the fact is officially conceded not only by Great Britain, but by all the other nations of the world.

Of course the birth of a nation, or the discovery of the birth of a nation, and of their own nation at that, must be a profound event for the lawyers of Canada, and it was fitting that they should invite their relations to assist in the celebration of the event. May we therefore regard this as a lawyers' national birthday celebration, and Viscount Cave, and Mr. Taft and Sir Auckland Geddes as wise men from the east and south come to honour

the new star in the national firmament.

When I was a school boy, we were taught that there were some half a dozen first rate powers in the Western World. There were Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Germany, France, Austria and perhaps Italy. Then there was a list of second rate powers headed by decrepit old Spain; and finally there was a list of third rate powers—Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Greece, Mexico and so on. And if any of the boys noticed that Canada was not included in any of the lists they were told that Canada was not a nation, but only a colony—and no other explanation was thought necessary.

It was true that some of the fathers of the Canadian Confederation saw visions and dreamed dreams, and in his correspondence with Lord Carnarvon over the jurisdiction to be given to the Supreme Court of Canada, Edward Blake made a brave attempt to establish the court on a national