

minds with a sense of the dignity and responsibility attached to popular privileges. We cannot, if we would, take the power from the people, but we can and we ought to train the people to an intelligent and just use of that power.

Fortunately for us, our present position to which we have been gradually brought, is one from which we can advance to national independence without any organic strain on existing institutions. Our Governor, nominated by the Crown, is the last link of colonial dependence. This one link, however, is as potent as a thousand, for all purposes of embarrassment to the empire. So long as this exists we must become involved in the possible wars of the empire on this continent—a source of weakness to the mother country and of weakness only. She cannot give us any controlling voice in such purely imperial questions as those of peace and war, and this imposes on her the burden of defending a thousand miles. and more, of exposed frontier. In the event of invasion we should do what we could, but of the measure of this we must always be the judges, the burden and responsibility of defence must needs rest with the mother country. Let the next step of our political progress, then, be to an elective governor. I would approach the change in this way,—first, there must be, of course, the imperial act to authorise the change,—the authorisation should be absolute,—to permit Canada to elect the Governor. The last link would thus be unloosed. And this accomplished, I would have the election made in this way. Let it be our rule that, by joint resolution of both branches of our legislature, the Foreign Minister—not the Colonial Minister—of Great Britain, be requested to furnish the names, say of three men, who by their recognised character, ability, and experience of the British constitutional system, would be fit for the post of Governor of Canada, taking precisely the same place in our Canadian constitutional system that the Sovereign does in the British system. Then let these three names be proposed to our Legislative Council, and the election made by plurality of votes there, providing that the plurality shall include a majority of that body, and arranging the mode of election accordingly. Let the term be