

tion inadvisable, chiefly on the ground that it would be probably objectionable to the government of the United States, which had so recently expressed its disapprobation of the attempt of the Emperor Napoleon to establish an imperial European dynasty in Mexico. It is difficult to understand how any parallel could be fairly drawn between the two cases, and most persons, less sensitive than the noble Lord, will probably consider that it was paying but a poor compliment to the common sense of the American people to suppose that they could take offence, on any reasonable grounds, at the Canadians, the subjects of the Queen, calling their confederation by a name which would simply illustrate their attachment to those monarchical institutions under which they had been living for a century and more. The famous message of President Monroe, in which he laid down the doctrine that any attempt of the European Powers to extend their system to any portion of the Western hemisphere, would be regarded as dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States, at the same time expressly stated that all existing rights and interests—such as those possessed by England in Canada—should be respected. However, the Canadian delegates made due allowance for the delicacy of the sentiments of the Colonial Secretary, and agreed as a compromise to the less ambitious title, Dominion of Canada,—a designation recalling that old Dominion, named by Raleigh in honour of the Virgin Queen.

The Dominion is governed by a central government in accordance with a written constitution known as the British North America Act, while each province still retains such an administrative and legislative machinery as is essential to its provincial existence. The Executive government and authority over Canada are vested in the Queen, but as the Sovereign cannot be present in the Dominion to perform those acts of state which the constitution requires at her hands, she is represented by a Governor-General, chosen every five years on the advice of her constitutional advisers. The permanency of the Executive is a feature of their government which the Canadians have learned to value by comparison with the elective system of the United States. The Governor-General of Canada is appointed without the country being excited by a political contest, the issue of which at