

power to place this excellent speech before our readers *in extenso*, but we may venture to call attention to a few of the principal topics, viz.: the superiority of our Constitution, the importance of maintaining the independence of our Judiciary, and the status of our Civil Service.

On the question of the superiority of our Constitution, which is occasionally doubted, Lord Dufferin spoke as follows:

"In the first place you possess the best form of Government with which any historical nation has ever been blessed. (Cheers.) The excellency of the British Constitution, with the self-expanding energies it embodies, is an ancient story which I need not insist upon; but as there are always external forces which disturb the working of the most perfect mechanism, so in an old country like England many influences exist to trouble the harmonious operations of the political machine, but here our Constitution has been set agoing almost *in vacuo*—entirely disencumbered of those entanglements which traditional prejudices and social complications have given birth to at home. My next advice to you then would be to guard and cherish the characteristics of your Constitution with a sleepless vigilance."

Most sincerely do we hope that this parting advice will be followed. If we adhere strictly to "those great principles of Constitutional and Parliamentary Government which centuries ago were born in England, which our ancestors shed their blood to defend, which our forefathers transplanted to this country," we may be sure that we are treading on safe ground. We are reminded by this language of the application by the old Reformers of Ontario, of the language of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, who announced that the Constitution which had been conferred on that Province "was not a mutilated constitution but one the very image and transcript of that of Great Britain." The immense superiority of our system of Parliamentary Government, which secures the harmonious action of our several estates, over that of our neighbours, where each estate is constantly checking the other, is, we believe, acknowledged by our leading statesmen on both sides of politics, and it may be hoped that the earnest advice of one so much beloved as is Lord Dufferin, will not be without its effect.

There has never been any indication of a desire on the part of the people of Canada to apply the elective principle to the Judiciary. The suggestion that the salaries are scarcely adequate, and that "you cannot have a first-rate article without paying for it," is well-deserving of consideration, and more especially as there is no class of salaries which has been so illiberally dealt with, since the depreciation in the value of money consequent on the largely increased supply of the precious metals, as that of the judges. There is, however, an

absolute necessity that some well considered plan should be devised for regulating the superannuation of judges. It is, perhaps, difficult to hit upon a mode of preventing judges remaining on the bench after they have ceased to be efficient, without interfering with their independence, which should, of course, be carefully guarded. Still such a plan could be and ought to be devised, and if we had a return of prosperity and a flourishing revenue, the subject of the Judiciary would be well worthy of the attention of the Government.

A considerable portion of Lord Dufferin's speech was devoted to the Civil Service of the country, which, "though not the animating spirit, is the living mechanism through which the body politic moves and breathes and has its being. Upon it depends the rapid and economical conduct of every branch of your affairs; and there is nothing a nation should be so particular about as to secure in such a service independence, zeal, patriotism and integrity." Lord Dufferin proceeded to impress upon his hearers the importance of having a Civil Service "wholly independent of political connection or opinions," men who "should serve their successive chiefs, no matter to which side they may belong, with a scrupulously impartial zeal and loyalty." After stating that a civil servant who allows "his political sympathies to damp his ardor, devotion, zeal, and loyalty to his department," Lord Dufferin expressed an opinion that the anxiety manifested by our friends across the line to purge their Civil Service of its political complexion would confirm every thinking Canadian in the conviction he sought to impress upon them.

Lord Dufferin has had experience of the Imperial Civil Service, the best probably in the world, and has doubtless been able to discover the shortcomings of the Canadian. We should rejoice if we could indulge the hope that the parting advice of Lord Dufferin would be productive at no distant date of such a reform in our Civil Service as would render it not unworthy of imitation by our Republican neighbors. Unless, however, we make haste, there are indications that the example will be set us by the United States.

Lord Dufferin had a word for the Canada First party. After an eloquent reference to the circumstances which caused the American revolutionists to tear themselves, "though, I believe, with bleeding hearts, from their mother's side," he referred to those earnest-minded men among us, who of late, with laudable enthusiasm, "have only given utterance to

"the feelings of every man and woman in the nation upon the duty of a supreme devotion to the interests of their own Canada." He reminded them that he, as an Imperial officer, "had never shown the slightest jealousy or breathed a word in discouragement of such honorable sentiments," and then pointed out that British institutions have been the result, not of speculative theories, but of practical experience, and that in that way, and "not by theoretical excursions into dream-land, the British policy has been so successfully elaborated." "So long," continued his Lordship, "as a man sleeps well, has a good appetite, and feels generally jovial, he may rest assured he needs no doctoring." "I feel," he continued, "that the stability of the relations between the Dominion and the Mother Country does not depend upon mere sentimental impulses, but is sanctioned and enforced by an appeal to the most practical and utilitarian considerations."

The conclusion of the speech was a reference in eloquent terms to his distinguished successor and his Royal consort. To the latter he made a more pointed allusion in his reply to the address from the Society of Artists:

"Gentlemen, in Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, you will not only find a sister brush (laughter), but one who, both by her native genius and the sound and thorough practical education she has received, is qualified to be your friend, protector, and guiding star. (Applause.) That she will be willing and ready to do so I have no doubt, for broad and generous as are all her sympathies, in no direction do they flow out in a richer or more spontaneous stream than towards her artist friends, and I shall be very much mistaken if her advent in Canada does not mark an era in the art history of this continent. (Applause.)"

One more passage in that address deserves special consideration. It is as follows:

"Some few weeks ago I had the good fortune to meet His Excellency the Governor of the State of New York, and I then suggested to him an idea which has been long present to my mind, namely, that the Governments of New York and of Ontario or Canada should combine to acquire whatever rights may have been established against the public, and to form around the Falls a small public international park—(hear, hear)—not, indeed, decorated or in any way sophisticated by the puny art of the landscape gardener, but carefully preserved in the picturesque and unutilized condition in which it was originally laid out by the hand of Nature. (Loud applause.) Nothing could have been more gratifying or gracious than the response which His Excellency the Governor of New York was good enough to make to my representations, and he encouraged me to hope that, should a fitting opportunity present itself, he and his Government might be induced, if not to take the initiative in the matter, at all events to co-operate heartily with our own in carrying out such a plan as I have sketched."

The reply to the address of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society contains advice which will, we earnestly hope, produce good results. The subject is of such special importance to this city, whose tax-