

provinces of Quebec and Ontario, with a wide expanse of the interior of the Continent, were subject to the military rule of the King of France. Moreover, it appears that the germs of parliamentary government were planted in Nova Scotia, at a date when no Englishman had yet seen any portion of Australia or New Zealand, when no British possession existed in South Africa, and it was not till a century afterwards that British Columbia became a British Colony.

We may rest assured that the British Empire, built up on the principles of freedom, justice, equal rights, and the self government of all its autonomous parts, is not destined to pass away like the Empires of history. The new Empire is inspired by a spirit unknown to the empires founded on absolutism. It is a union of free and enlightened communities, dedicated to the cause of commerce, of civilization and of peace, and who can doubt that such a great political organization is destined to endure? Every improvement in transportation, in postal arrangements, and in telegraphy by land and sea, is calculated to facilitate inter-communications and to foster friendships among kindred people, and thus to perpetuate their attachment to the cradle of the British race,—to the source of that unequalled constitution which is their highest inheritance.

Directly following the Canadian Thanksgiving day, the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, addressed a large assemblage in Montreal. He spoke in the very highest terms of the British system of Government,—that system bestowed on Canada and on all the autonomous parts of the Empire, a system which in the words of one of the greatest living historians "is a thing to be proud of."

Speaking of the British constitution, Sir Wilfred said: "it is not a written instrument * * it is a living thing always growing, always susceptible of improvement, always adaptable to the ever-varying changes and needs of a nation, but so strong and so enduring, that while during the last century, the whole of the continent of Europe was convulsed by revolutions, while constitutions and dynasties went crashing and tumbling down, the reposeful atmosphere of England was as calm as the flight of the eagle in a clear, summer sky." Referring to the history of England, he said: "from the first to the last page, you will find the evolution of the principles which were