

colonial system with, in certain cases, the principle of public election substituted for that of nomination by the Crown. Mr. Filmore stands to his Congress very much in the same relation in which I stood to my Assembly in Jamaica. There is the same absence of effective responsibility in the conduct of legislation, the same want of concurrent action between the parts of the political machine^(a). And referring to his experiences in respect to the negotiations for reciprocity at Washington the session before, he says: "There was no Government to deal with. The interests of the union as a whole and distinct from local and sectional interests, had no organ in the representative body; it was all a question of canvassing this member of Congress or the other. It is easy to perceive that under such a system, jobbing must become, not the exception, but the rule. Now I feel very strongly, that when a people have been thoroughly accustomed to the working of such a parliamentary system as ours, they will never consent to revert to this clumsy, irresponsible mechanism. Whether we shall be able to carry on the war here long enough to allow the practice of constitutional government and the habits of mind which it engenders to take root in these Provinces, may be doubtful"^(b).

No one can dispute that the practice of constitutional government and the habits of mind which it engenders have taken permanent root in Canada notwithstanding Lord Elgin's forebodings. But many things have happened since the days of Lord Elgin. Provincialism disappeared in the conception of a Canadian nationality in a federated Dominion. And how weighty the influence of the Dominion has come to be in the councils of the Empire may be read in Sir John Bourinot's article in a recent number of the *Forum*, where a justly deserved tribute is paid to Lord Salisbury for his conduct in matters where the interests of Canada have been deeply concerned ^(c). But more than that, the dream of Lord Brougham in 1803

(a) Walrond's Letters and Journals of Lord Elgin, pp. 120-1.

(b) *Ibid.*

(c) Canada's Relations with the United States and Her Influence in Imperial Councils, *Forum*, May, 1898.