

ply another term for "*a nation*" under British suzerainty. In fact the actual title that Macdonald designed for the new Confederation was not "The Dominion of Canada," but "The Kingdom of Canada." The new nation was to enjoy the rank of a kingdom, the control of the Colonial Office was to cease, the head of the Executive was to be the King in person or his representative, and while the nominal authority of the Imperial Parliament was to remain Canada was to be a self-governing nation with an Executive of its own, under the suzerainty of Great Britain. To that extent alone Canada was to remain *in connection* with the British Empire, an entirely different matter to being *part* of the Empire. When, however, the final steps took place in London, Macdonald's idea, much to his disgust, was vetoed by the Imperial authorities, the title Dominion was substituted for that of Kingdom and other changes made in the final draft of the measure constituting Confederation.\*

The sentiments expressed by Macdonald were echoed by his great French Canadian colleague, George Etienne Cartier, "*Confederation will transform the British North American Provinces into a new power which will give to its people the rank of a Nation. The creation of this nation will open to us an era of national progress*" said Cartier. Not only from the utterances of Macdonald and Cartier but from the declarations of all the leading Fathers of Confederation there can be no room for doubt of the *national status* they intended for the Dominion.

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\* Macdonald's disgust with the Imperial authorities was expressed in a letter written by him to Lord Knutsford, in 1889, in the course of which he said, "*Agreat opportunity was lost in 1867, when the Dominion was formed, This remarkable event in the history of the Empire passed almost without notice. The Union was treated by them ( the Imperial authorities) as if the B. N. A. Act were a private Bill, uniting two or three English parishes.*" Macdonald's sarcasm at the expense of the British statesmen is delicious. It is interesting to note that the name Kingdom was changed to that of Dominion at the instance of Lord Derby, the then Foreign Minister, who feared that such a name might wound the tender "*sensibilities of the Yankees*" to use Macdonald's own words.