

people. In the three provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, there are three Legislatures, with an aggregate of one hundred and sixty members, and three executive councils, with twenty-five ministers in all; and yet these provinces have altogether only a population of less than a million souls. The affairs of the Empire State of New York, with its population of five millions,—equal to that of Canada,—are managed by a Legislature of one hundred and sixty members, and some seven heads of departments, including the Governor. The proposition which has been often mooted of uniting the smaller provinces under one government does not, however, obtain any large measure of support, since it is antagonistic to the principle which lies at the basis of the Canadian Confederation, that each of the old provinces should preserve its autonomy as far as possible.

We come now to consider the division of powers between the central and provincial governments; the most important part of the constitution, involving, as it necessarily does, the unity and security of the Dominion. We have already shown that the general government has jurisdiction over all questions which affect the Dominion, while the Provinces have jurisdiction over matters of a purely provincial, local, and municipal character. In dealing with this important question the Canadians have endeavoured to profit by the experience of their American neighbours, and to frame their constitution so as to avoid any dangerous assertion of 'State Rights.' Happily for Canada there has been no question of slavery to divide one section from the other. No climatic conditions exist in the Dominion, as in the United States, to create those differences of habit and temperament which make the Southerners practically a distinct people. What diversities of interests exist in the Dominion arise from the geographical situation of the Provinces. We see on the seaboard a Maritime section, where the people are mainly engaged in mining or maritime pursuits; again in the West, a great prosperous agricultural and manufacturing community. In the arrangements of tariffs the peculiar interests of the diverse sections—especially of the Maritime Provinces—have to be carefully considered, and are no doubt at times a cause of considerable perplexity to Governments and Parliaments; but this diversity