

siveness of knowledge which show that a colonial statesman can rise beyond that "colonial littleness" which the 'Times' very recently went out of its way to describe as the principal characteristic of Canadian public life.

The people of Canada now enjoy a system of government that is in complete harmony with their social and material condition, and fully equal to their wants and necessities for years to come. Representative institutions were established in Canada less than a century ago, and have expanded according to the progress of the country in population and wealth. The inhabitants, in the days of the French *régime*, had no system of local government, and were even restrained from holding public meetings. The government was administered through a few French officials, who derived their instructions directly from the king and his Ministers. Assemblies were given to the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1792, and the people were from that time educated in self-government. The history of the forty years following was one of bickerings and controversies between the governors and the Assemblies. The fatal defect of the early constitutions was the irresponsible character of the executive; and it was not until the ill-advised rebellion of 1837-38 broke out, and the attention of England was necessarily given to the political condition of the country, that British statesmen at last recognised the mistakes of their previous policy, and consented to extend the constitutional liberties of the people of the North American provinces. The immediate results of this wise change of policy were the union of the Canadas in 1840, and the concession of responsible government. This was the commencement of a new era in colonial

history, from which must date the remarkable development of Canada. Concession after concession was made to the colonies by the British Government until they were finally permitted to manage their own affairs without the interference of the parent State. By the federal union of 1867, the provinces are in the possession of powers almost imperial in their nature. The central Government now has the power to appoint and dismiss the lieutenant-governors of the several sections constituting the Dominion, and to establish new provinces within the vast Northwest Territory, which is exclusively under its control. The constitution also invests the central Government with the right of disallowing the acts of the provincial legislatures whenever they conflict with the powers given, either in express terms or by necessary implication, to the Dominion Parliament. The right of disallowance has been exercised on several occasions, and is likely to prove a source of much controversy from time to time between the several provinces and the general Government. The history of the federal system of the United States shows us very clearly that the various members of the Union must always regard with jealousy and suspicion any interference with their legislative action, and that the central authority is bound to act strictly within the letter and spirit of its constitutional limitations, in order that the federal machinery may move without that friction which, sooner or later, must lead to troublesome complications. At present we only refer to this important constitutional provision as showing the large power given to the Government of Canada under the Act of Confederation. If it were not for the facts that the sovereign is still represented by a Governor-General,

that C
make
eign co
have s
Judicial
Coun
practic
Even
her ov
been d
ful pa
ment.
Recipr
betwe
States
ington
shows
Gover
the co
their
undou
arrang
the c
Domi
tory l
of co
are n
interest
tion.
By
the D
Lieut
lature
and a
provi
right
educ
matt
cial
merc
reven
milit
tion
ters
impo
dictio
Gove
reser
giver
ment
work
of t
and