

British Constitution.—the responsibility of the Privy Council to Parliament as the highest evolution of democratic government. France, after having passed through centuries of conflict, only attained to that high eminence a few years ago, I think in 1884. Germany has not attained to it yet, although recent indications in the German Parliament give promise of such an advance. In the United States, the Executive, which corresponds to our Privy Council, is in no respect responsible to Congress—the name by which the United States Parliament is known. The function of this Council is to aid and advise the Government of Canada. If the aid and advice given is repugnant to the people, new Councillors are called in and the old Council dismissed. By no subterfuge whatever, can the will of Parliament be thwarted for any length of time. If the laws declared by Parliament to be for the public good are not executed as Parliament desires, then the Queen's Privy Council for the time being must give place to others. If the moneys voted by Parliament for public purposes are improperly expended, and Parliament so declares, more faithful stewards of the exchequer must be found.

The Conference did well to retain this feature of the model. Evidently they did not forget the services of a Baldwin and a Lafontaine in the long contest for responsible government, and possibly, too, they had before their mind the declaration of Lord Elgin, made in this city of Montreal, that whatever his Council advised him to do with the consent of Parliament, he would consider it his duty to do at any cost—a noble example of courageous and Constitutional statesmanship.

Resolution Six. "Bills for appropriating any part of the Public Revenue, or for imposing any Tax or Import shall originate in the House of Commons." Suppose we call up Charles I and read to him this resolution of the Conference, what would he say? "'Bills imposing any Tax shall originate in the House of Commons,'—how absurd! Shall I, the King of England by Divine Right, subordinate my will to a plebeian House of Commons? Not a bit of it. I shall levy 'Ship Money' at my Royal will, and I shall collect it, too—see if I do not." But John Hampden said "No," and that "No" of a humble subject was more powerful than the mandate of the King of England, and would, thank God, be equally powerful to-day. That "No" was uttered two hundred years ago. It cost Charles his head; and so strong is the germinal power of a fundamental principle that it has fertilized the British Constitution from that day to this. It is a good word.—well spoken,—let it stand. Only the people shall tax themselves—not Kings or Presidents, not even hereditary Lords or puissant senators. The public Treasury is the depository of the life-blood of the nation; only the nation, speaking through its representatives, should say how its largess should be bestowed. Patrick Henry, speaking of the invasion of the rights of the thirteen Colonies, because