

without change of the forms, and indeed without being conscious of the transition, from a Monarchy into a Republic. This policy of conservatism in form and revolution in substance is deemed the height of wisdom, but perhaps there may be two sides to that question.

The Imperial country still sends out a governor, but he has no longer any political power. The last prerogative retained was that of dissolving or refusing to dissolve Parliament, and this was given up to the Prime Minister by the late Governor-General. The prerogative of mercy was personally exercised by Lord Dufferin in a special case, to relieve his ministers of a difficulty, but it was understood that this was to be the last time. The late Governor-General marked his irresponsibility by reading, at the dictation of his Prime Minister, a speech from the Throne in which he commended a fiscal policy laying protective duties on English goods. By holding his little court at Ottawa, by recommending to baronetcies and knighthoods, by getting Canadian ladies presented at the British Court, by going round and speaking, dining, or laying first stones, the Governor-General fosters the monarchical and aristocratic sentiment. With Lord Dufferin this social propagandism began to be active. Aristocracy clings to the hope that it may yet rescue from democracy a part of the New World. No one who has at all imbibed the spirit of history can have narrow feelings against historical institutions. Aristocracy had its day, when it did the service of an iron time. But its day, even for the Old World, is past. In the New World its intrusion surely can do nothing but mischief. Democracy has its evils and perils, as all men of sense know, and as all noble spirits struggling for improvement know too well. But titles of honour, so-called, do not make the bearers honourable. The spirit of the lacquey does not cast out the spirit of the demagogue, and nothing but the spirit of the lacquey can well be bred by these petty courts without ancestral grandeur or traditional refinement. Some of the best men in Canada