

and provincialism into the broad stream of a truly national life under Confederation. The federation of the British North American colonies itself was a recognition of Canadianism or nationalism for it was with the increase of national sentiment that there came the desire for territorial expansion and for the union of all the provinces and the great Dominion was the result.

I have already shown how at the time of Confederation the national ideal was held before Canadians by Macdonald, Cartier, Brown, Galt, Tupper and the other leading founders of the Dominion. And despite the persistent efforts of the protagonists of the Imperialistic cult and their apparent success — at least let us sincerely hope that it is more apparent than real — the principle of Canadianism or nationalism has never been completely lost sight of by Canadian statesmen of all schools of politics. In the early days of Confederation Macdonald and Cartier, the two leading statesmen of the period never failed to support and advocate the national idea. Though a Scotchman by birth no stronger Canadian or more ardent champion of Canadian rights and interests ever lived than John A. Macdonald, and he invariably had an able and zealous supporter in the great French Canadian Father of Confederation George Etienne Cartier who was a Canadian of the Canadians. The path of these two great men was beset with many difficulties and more than once did Canadian interests come in conflict with Imperial exigencies. But whenever they did Macdonald and Cartier were never found wanting in upholding the interests of Canada and in standing unflinchingly for the complete autonomy of the Dominion.

The subordinate position of the Dominion at this early period of our national life and the sacrifice of Canadian interests to Imperial exigencies aroused leading Canadians to energetic protest. Alexander Tilloch Galt who was one of the first, if not the first, of Canadian statesmen to propose the Confederation of the British North American colonies went so far as to openly advocate the com-