

'an auxiliary Power'. (1) What Sir John Macdonald desired that she should be, Canada has now become. She is recognized by Great Britain and the world 'as an auxiliary Power' with a position of her own. Her growth to 'equal status', and the growth of the other Dominions with her, has been extremely rapid, as constitutional evolutions mostly go; but it would have been more rapid still had there been no obscurantist opposition of certain schools of thought in Great Britain itself. 'To give the Colonies the power of negotiating treaties for themselves without reference to Her Majesty's Government', wrote a Whig Colonial Secretary, Lord Ripon, in 1895, when some one expressed the desire to negotiate a commercial treaty alone, as Canada actually did only twelve years later, 'would be to give them an international status as separate and sovereign states, and would be equivalent to breaking up the Empire into a number of independent states.' (2) The Dominion statesmen had to prove, step by step, by their courage, their perseverance, and their wisdom, that in truth there could be 'no limits to freedom', and that the only true union among civilized and democratic peoples lay in the unrestricted liberty both of their

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(1) Sir J. Macdonald's memorandum to the Colonial Office; vide Life of Sir Charles Tupper, ed. by Saunders, vol. 1 pp. 275-7.  
(2) Despatch of June 28, 1895, to all self-governing Colonies. Cited by Porritt, op. cit., p. 195.