

"presented, to impose national institutions upon them. If British "North Americans, Australians, and South Africans were really to "manage their own national affairs, they had first of all to fashion "for themselves organs adequate for the purpose. The step from "provincial to national self-government was one which could only "be taken by themselves." (pp. 66-67).

To the statesmen of Canada, as pioneers in that movement, Mr. CURTIS renders a well-deserved and sincere testimony.

The right and practice of self-government once acknowledged to the colonies, "power to alter their own constitutions was claimed "by colonial parliaments, and generally conceded by the *Colonial "Laws Validity Act, 1865."* (p. 47)¹

The Dominions are "Separate Sovereignities"

In fact as well as in right, the self-governing colonies, or Dominions, "are *separate sovereignties*, for the same reason and to the "same extent as Scotland was a sovereignty separate from that of "England," before the Act of Union (p. 234). "Canadians, Australians, and South Africans each think of themselves as nations distinct from the people of the British Isles, just as the British think of "themselves as a nation distinct from the citizens of the United "States". (p. 68).

Far from condemning that "healthy instinct", Mr. CURTIS takes it to be one of the most precious features of new nations. How he proposes to utilise it in the reconstruction of the Empire will be seen later.

Foreign affairs are the only field in which the autonomy of the Dominions remains restricted; and those restrictions exist for the mere reason that the Dominions themselves have not "finally insisted" upon their right to exercise their authority in those matters, as they did with regard to taxation or immigration. (pp. 75, 77, 216.)

The right of the Colonies to self-government once *acknowledged* — not *conceded* — their freedom "to decide all things for themselves, "even the nature of their citizenship, was accepted as *articulus stantis*

¹ That organic law was enacted in the same year that witnessed the agreement relative to war and defence, concluded between the Canadian delegates and the Imperial Government. Of that agreement more will be said in the following pages.