

difficulties, to promote the real and cordial union of the country in matters common to us as a whole, to secure good government for the Provinces, and good government for the Dominion too, that we Liberals insist so strenuously upon local management of local affairs. Local management will be quick and responsive to local public opinion. It is not troubled by a consideration of the views, objections, prejudices, and ignorance of those not concerned in such affairs and belonging to other Provinces. Besides,

**LOCAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE EVER BEEN, UNDER THE BRITISH SYSTEM,
THE GREAT NURSERIES OF FREEDOM.**

They are the trainers of the people at large, and especially of those who are to be the people's leaders in the larger arena; and so highly are these local liberties valued, that they are held by the wisest men to be *the real root of the British constitutional system*. We, therefore, hold that their true dignity and importance ought to be conceded to the local authorities, and that the wide sphere of Provincial action under the constitution should be fully, frankly, and ungrudgingly recognized by all concerned. We desire that those important matters of common concern, by the wise regulation of which we may foster and increase our community of thought, feeling, interest, and affection throughout Canada, and so become one people, should be dealt with, and that these alone should be dealt with, at Ottawa. In these we are partners; the regulation of these so as to produce harmony and good feeling is itself difficult. To that task we should address ourselves; and to turn to other and local matters, to attempt to enlarge our sphere, to increase the number of, I do not say the links of love, but the coercive bonds of connection, is not really to promote our union. It is to PRODUCE DISCORD AND DIFFICULTY, AND TO SOW THE SEEDS OF SEPARATION. But, sir, the very opposite of these notions has prevailed at Ottawa for years past. Centralization has been the dream of the powers there. Every effort has been made to curtail the just Provincial rights, and there has consequently existed a constant struggle on the part of the Provinces, and notably of Ontario, not to obtain more than their constitutional rights, but to hold their own under the constitution. (Cheers.) Take for example

THE LICENSE LAWS.

Every Province had always passed license laws, and for many years those laws had remained unchallenged. For years it was generally believed that the Provinces alone had power to pass such laws. At length it seemed to Sir John Macdonald that a