

natural that a plan for the general organization of the Scottish societies in Canada should emanate from Montreal, and as what seems to me might be a practical basis for such a plan, I would propose that the various societies throughout the land having for their object generally the healthy growth of Scottish sentiment and characteristics in this country, should be invited to form one federation, so that while each would maintain its separate and distinct existence, doing its own particular work in its own way, there would still go forth from an accredited executive body direction, inspiration and guidance, in the attainment of their common aims. If it be said that the attempt to work out a plan of this kind has been tried in the case of the North American United Caledonian Association without commensurate results, I think the answer is obvious. That organization, well-meaning in its purpose, sought to cover too great and divided a territory to be of great practical value in its work. Other reasons might also be given why it did not fulfill the sanguine expectations formed of it, but these need not be stated here. I cannot see why a federation of Scottish societies should not work satisfactorily in Canada; at least until the population became large enough to warrant two such bodies, which might sometime be practicable through the rapid filling up of the great West. The articles and ordinances of federation would have to be so elastic as to stretch out to every variety of Scottish society. Yet such a tie