

splendid scheme of a great British community in North America. The principle of executive responsibility which he recommended, not with the vain notion that it could be enforced by positive law, but as the sure and only foundation of a firm and peaceable government of the colonies, though repudiated in words, has been already partially recognized in the appointments made by the Government. But it does not matter very much what the Government repudiates or what it recognizes, for certain it is that in the Parliament of United Canada it has created a power from which no Government in this country will be able to withhold that voice in the selection of its rulers, which Lord Durham showed to be a necessary consequence of representative institutions.

If then the mission to Canada must ever be an object of mournful contemplation to us who loved Lord Durham and lament his irreparable loss, yet, when we look to the interests of his reputation, we may regard the execution of this high and difficult task as among the noblest of the many noble memorials of his career. Let us remember that, if he failed to obtain the results of immediate satisfaction and credit to himself, it was because he laboured for higher and more permanent objects. In this, as in every other part of his course through life, he left the trodden path of old routine and by-gone systems, and was the first to advance towards whatever of wider and clearer views the enlarged experience of mankind has in these days reached. Here, as in other matters, his foresight enabled him to base his policy on those principles on which the coming age of the world will be ruled. He who acts thus must not expect that he will be rightly appreciated by the little knots of intriguers, from whose thoughts and interests he separates himself. But from the mass of his countrymen he may expect at least that generous sympathy with the rectitude of his purpose, which Lord Durham found even in his own day. From after times he will receive a yet larger meed of justice. For, as coming events in their appointed course shall prove the sagacity with which he foresaw them—as the public mind, gradually opening to new and sound views, shall be prepared to read the right lesson in the occurrences which it may witness—so will shine forth with daily increasing brightness the character of that statesman, who alone in his day rightly appreciated the worth of our colonial empire, and saw on what deep and sure foundations of freedom its prosperity might be reared. With us, then, that sorrow for his loss, which no time can efface, need be mingled with no vain and injurious regrets for the results of his labours,