

as they did into India, and Egypt and elsewhere. For this is not the only field in which France has blazed the way; in which she has sowed the seed while practical Old England followed after her and harvested the increase.

This rich, luxuriant and unpeopled land of ours was bound to be the prey and property of the first-comer. And that first comer was France. The King of France aimed to do in North America by Champlain and his successors, what the King of Spain did in the South half of the New World, where the Spaniard had discovered and conquered and looted and lost the most magnificent Colonial Empire the world had ever seen.

But New England and Old England blocked the way of France to extend her dominion from Atlantic to Pacific, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Circle, from her plantations in the Valley of the Mississippi to her New France in the valley of the St. Lawrence.

#### THE PECULIAR ATTACHMENT OF FRENCH CANADA

We must remember that all North America was at one time nearly becoming as completely French as North Africa is French today. It was not merely by the surrender at Yorktown that the Americans acquired their great imperial domain. It was really by the French surrender of Quebec a few years earlier that this continent for the first time was opened to the safe expansion of the New England colonists as far as the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. While the French menace remained they clung closely to the Motherland. But no sooner was the foreign pressure removed, than the demands of the Colonists became insistent, and all their grievances insupportable. It was only about eighteen years from Quebec to Yorktown.

France had kept those same English Colonies cooped up, for their own safety, along a narrow sea-board of the Atlantic while she was extending her New France on two sides of them. But Wolfe's victory relieved the pressure. There is one case where Britain did not "blunder" into Empire. She deliberately set out to capture it from her enemy in the seven years war. It cost her much. But it was a prize worth the struggle. And the chief gainers by Wolfe's victory were our friends the Americans. That victory decided the future of the Continent. But before two decades, it led directly to the loss of those English colonies in the War of Independence.

Is it not strange that the violent critics of the present discussion of our destiny accuse the Native Sons of having their origin in Quebec; when the fact is that nowhere in Canada will people be found so opposed to any constitutional change as in French Canada. There is probably not a single lodge there of this excellent society. But yet it was one of these French Fathers of Confederation who boldly declared that the last gun to be fired in defence of the British flag in North America would be fired by a French Canadian.

#### BRITISH GENIUS FOR GOVERNMENT—THE DEPENDENCIES

Other possessions, dominions or outposts fall to the empire very frequently as the result of the spoils of war—most frequently unprovoked or aggressive war on the part of an enemy. And it is one of the outstanding proofs of the governing genius of the British race that in nearly every case we have known how to conciliate and retain them.

There is another side or aspect of the Empire. The great growing dependencies which have not yet acquired self-government are kept together, kept within the Empire, by that confidence, not only in our fairness, but in our force; a confidence inspired by the governing capacity of the United Kingdom and that capacity for the good government and fair administration of weaker races. If that power or that capacity should fail our race, then our dominion over those outlying dependencies would be at an end. And if the cordial entente between the Centre of Empire and the great overseas part-

ners should by any misunderstanding be dissolved—an event more fraught with disaster to us than to the Parent Kingdom—then and there that Empire should go the way of the Roman and of the Colonial dominion of Spain. There the outlying pro-consulates, left unprotected, became, like Rome herself, the prey of the barbarians. The light of Art and learning was extinguished in Europe and the world was plunged into the obscurity called the dark ages. Therefore, I say, Britain cannot abandon her Dominions, and we will not abandon her. In any event, or in either case, devoted allies should have become bitter foes. And the dark ages of the world might recur, and the hand should be turned back again for some centuries upon the dial plate of our civilization.

#### OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Men and nations are to be governed by the heart as well as the head. Not by self interest alone but by sentiments and the affections. Was the world conquered by German scientific efficiency, which was certainly pre-eminent? If cold reason, and scientific knowledge and efficiency alone guided statecraft and decided the fate of nations and the destiny of mankind, then the Germans, by all the rules of superior efficiency should today be masters of the world. For by all the rules of war, by all the rules of the game, we were more than once defeated. And they could prove to us today, I am sure—to all the sophisters, calculators and economists—that we lost much more in blood and treasure by our obstinate resistance to their onslaught, than we could have lost by submission.

Now these great Self-governing Overseas Communities, of which we are the Banner State, being altogether of European blood, and for the most part, British, are kept within the Empire only by their own interest, and the general desire and interest to remain a united people. We are not held together by any central force or constraint. That sentiment or desire for union is stronger than any written contract, and has come down to us as the traditional and connecting link preservative of the whole chain. That chain, according to the poor mistaken psychology of the Germans, was to fall to pieces at the very first strain. It would not stand the rude test of war. They were sure of that. But it did. Bismarck, in most respects, the ablest statesman of his day, made that mistake. His empire, as he said, was built not on variable parliamentary majorities, nor on popular good will, but on "blood and iron." Well, his foundation of "blut und eisen" did not stand the strain of war. And if ours did, it was because the war was a just one. The people of this country stood then, and must always stand, for right against wrong. And in that case it had public opinion unanimously on its side, and the universal conscience of humanity.

#### OUR COMPLAINTS

Now one of the strong points made by my esteemed friend in the course of his interesting articles and still more interesting addresses which brought him so much censure, was the facility with which the Americans have always got the best of us Canadians in every diplomatic controversy with England, resulting in the sacrifice of our rights, or the abandonment of our just indemnities, or the loss of some islands, or coast line or strip of frontier at our expense. That diplomatic facility may be easily explained.

Let us look into these grievances. Great nations regulate their differences generally on a large scale. They take a wide view. In their negotiations, they off-set a claim in one part of the world by a disputed claim in another. Everything that is done does not appear on the green table. Nations, it must be remembered, are seldom generous, and they are never altruistic. It is contrary to all principles of international politics. Selfishness which is a vice in individuals, is a virtue in governments. Every one for himself is their motto. And so the larger interests of the whole nation, American, British