

rudimentary truths underlying all constitutional systems of government and demonstrate that mere questions of municipal law are of minor importance when compared with the fundamental considerations which are at the basis of the preservation of free institutions; that is, the conservatism which is necessary to conserve representative government, the willingness of one to submit to such restraints upon his own conduct as are essential to the preservation of the rights of all. In other words, the power of a free people to restrain themselves in order that freedom may endure.

This thought at once also makes clear what otherwise might be obscure, that is, the meeting of the American Bar Association in a country over which floats a flag different from that to which its own allegiance is due. It also explains, putting aside questions of personal kindness and courtesy, why the Lord High Chancellor, the incumbent of the greatest—pardon me, of one of the greatest—tribunals on the earth, has crossed the seas at the invitation of the Association to grace this assembly by his presence.

And the mere mention of the presence of his Lordship serves to show what an impossible task has been imposed upon me, since that task is to introduce the Lord Chancellor to this meeting. The impossibility is well illustrated by a simple incident which comes to my mind. I recollect a few years ago I was with a gentleman who had with him his little son who was fishing. The sun was hot, and after throwing out his line, the boy was soon tired, and desiring to go away, leaving his line, said, "Papa, that line fishes itself." So how can it be within my power as an American lawyer to introduce his Lordship to American lawyers when the very mention of his presence at once serves to make him known?

I might avoid doing the unnecessary or impossible by introducing my countrymen to his Lordship, but I could not do that without violating the rule stated by the Prime Minister in his eloquent address this morning when he declared that it was impossible to speak of the warm welcome which the Canadians extended to the Association because the warmth of that welcome was what the lawyers speak of as *res ipsa loquitur*; that is, a thing apparent to everybody and speaking for itself. Applying this rule,