

Canada alone, and some thirty-three in the whole British Dominion, while throughout the world most foreign nations have followed in the wake of England and Canada. Even Turkey has recently emancipated herself, and the few remaining nations still under absolutism are beginning to throb with new life and the prospect of constitutional liberty.

With the facts thus placed before us we are now able to perceive that the humble gathering of the nineteen representatives of the early settlers in Nova Scotia, if lacking in the brilliancy and glory of the second great event above alluded to as having occurred in the year following on the Plains of Abraham, has undoubtedly proved to be one of the most remarkable epochs in the development of civilization.

As one of the results of great geographical discoveries some centuries back, a whole family of empires arose. There came into being the Spanish, the French, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. All but one of these empires were based on the political ideas of absolutism which at that period so generally prevailed. In consequence of this feature they were beset with dangers. Of all these empires, the British alone survives, and the survival of the British Empire is owing to its political organization being entirely different from that of any other empire of which we have any record in history; the solution of the problem in this case having been effected, as described, by granting a representative institution to each part so soon as the people were ready for it.

Canada begins the year 1909 in a peculiarly happy position, with untold natural resources and a steadily increasing industrious population to develop them. The French and English elements have been in friendly contact for a century and a half. The union may not as yet in all respects be complete, but, as in the generations which followed the Norman conquest of England, the