

Upon the organization of the Canadian Confederacy, these Colonies assumed complete responsibility for the raising and expenditure of their own revenues, the administration of their own public services, the development of their own industrial and commercial institutions and the construction of their internal ways of communication; but, by the British North America Act of the Imperial Parliament, which created the Union, their political activities and responsibilities were strictly confined to the geographical limits of Canada, and they were conceded no right or authority to participate in strictly Imperial nor International affairs.

Sir John A. MacDonald, throughout the negotiations for a union of the British American Colonies, freely and frequently expressed the belief that the framers of Confederation were, in fact, founding a great Nation, creating a great Nationality. "I believe," said he, during the Confederation Debates in 1865, "that as we grow stronger, that as it is felt in England we have become a people, able from our union, our strength, our population, and the development of our resources, to take our position among the Nations of the World, England would be less willing to part with us than she would be now, when we are broken up into a number of insignificant Colonies."

"Our future progress," he added, "during the next quarter of a century will be vastly greater. And when by means of this rapid increase, we become a nation of eight or nine millions of inhabitants, our alliance will be worthy of being sought by the great nations of the earth. I am proud to believe that our desire for a permanent alliance will be reciprocated in England. The Colonies are now in a transition state. Gradually a different Colonial system is being developed—and it will become, year by year, less a case of dependence on our part, and of over-ruling protection on the part of the Mother Country, and more a case of healthy and cordial alliance . . . . So long as that alliance is maintained, we enjoy, under her protection, the privileges of constitutional liberty according to the British system. We will enjoy that which is the great test of constitutional freedom—we will have the rights of the minority respected."

### Canadian Nationalism

The earlier years of Confederation were devoted to the organization of the public services, and to promoting internal ways of