

erned by us ; she has reached maturity and stands by our side the support and mainstay of our reign, pulsating with the courage that rescued the liberties of the people from an unworthy monarch at Runnymede, and animated by the firmness that inspired the Petition of Rights. Addressing Canada it exclaimed, " Our government henceforth shall be confined to ourselves ;

" The law that ye make shall be law and I do not press my will

" Because ye are Sons of the Blood, and call me Mother still."

This young giant, it said, shall legislate for herself, subject only to the bar she willingly imposes, the power of disallowance left to us. And so it was enacted.

That this is no vision, but that the British people and Government were fully seized of the growth of the spirit of independence in the colonies, and were prepared and anxious to encourage that growth, appears on every side.

So early as 1775 Adam Smith declared : " In everything except their foreign trade, the liberty of the English colonists to manage their own affairs their own way is complete " (*f*). Lord Abingdon stated in the debate in the House of Lords on the Constitutional Act of 1791 : " That by this Bill this country was restored to its right, not of internal legislation over the colonies, for that right it never had, notwithstanding the pretended omnipotence of the Declaratory Act (18 Geo. III, c. 12), but to its undoubted external right of regulating the commerce of all its dependencies for the sake of navigation and insomuch for the safety and general benefit of the whole British Empire " (*g*). And Sir Cornwall Lewis admits that " The early English colonies were in practice nearly independent of the Mother Country except as to their external commercial relations. . . . And there was scarcely any interference on the part of England with the ordinary management of their internal affairs " (*h*).

But this early restriction has been swept away, for it is conceded that the difference between self-government in the past and in the present consists in the fact that the colonies now within limits

(*f*) Chapter vii, Part II.—" Causes of the Prosperity of New Colonies."

(*g*) Hansard's Parly. History, vol. 29, pp. 658, 659.

(*h*) Government of Dependencies, pp. 159, 160.