

in any wise advantageous for us to give up our incorporation with an Empire, whose well-balanced Constitution and firmly established Institutions in Church and State provide guarantees, checks and guards, without which the Dominion, left to itself, would be a prey to every hostile power and ambition, and almost inevitably rush into the horrors of bankruptcy and ruin. Experiments are often dangerous, and, when change is not imperatively called for, it is always well to let well alone.

Suffer, I pray you, one word more. I have been dealing with debatable questions, and it is not unlikely that there are some of our number who, partially or totally, dissent from the views to which I have given expression. I can sympathize with all such, having myself listened more than once, on similar occasions, to statements and conclusions against which my judgment and heart were all the time silently protesting. But, it is surely cause for warm congratulation that, as regards the aim and work of the Societies here represented, there are no two opinions. I would venture to offer the counsel to the members of these Societies, let no Utopian theories or any chimerical theorists divert or stop the onflow and outflow of your kindly and generous feelings towards needy sisters and brothers from Scotland, St. Andrew's Home, which shelters or feeds all deserving poor fellow-countrymen, requires no justification of, or argument for, its continued and continual existence. I can conceive no set of circumstances in which it should or could be allowed to perish. It is, in the largest and broadest sense, a Catholic institution. Neither it nor the Society which conducts it knows any creed, in the distribution of its gifts, but this:—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." No better monument can we raise to the memory of the old land, in this new country of ours, than a refuge and a retreat for her children who come to our shores in indigence and poverty—better than mere eulogies of the glory of her history or the beauty of her landscapes! May God enable us all to live and act in Canada as worthy descendants of worthy Scottish sires, and so that, of each of us, it may ever be said by those around us, "he loveth our nation."