

administration of Justice. It always had the power, and has now, to abolish entirely any court, and to constitute any other court in its stead with such jurisdiction as it may choose to confer.

It seems to me a strange proposition that the County Courts, created by the Legislature of this Province for the purpose of aiding in the administration of Justice, with such jurisdiction as it was deemed necessary in the wisdom of the legislature to confer upon them, should, because a branch of the judiciary power under the constitution, assume jurisdiction to declare void any act of the authority by which they were so created and by a single breath of which they may be swept out of existence. Yet this is the theory upon which all the legal tribunals are to take such a jurisdiction. The judiciary does by its original and constitutional powers possess jurisdiction to restrain the *individual* will and action of the people, but not the *sovereign will*. The sovereign power of the people or the major part of them, as declared through the sovereign head of the nation or its representative, may make lawful whatever it will, and every department of the government is bound to give effect to it.

If the Parliament of Canada should establish a Supreme Court of Appeal for the Dominion, and by the Act organizing the court should require the court to be governed in its judgments and decisions by the law enacted by Parliament, or by any Provincial Legislature, preferring that law last in order of time, and declaring that it should be deemed a good ground for the reversal of the judgment of any Provincial court if found to be in conflict with any such law, could there be any doubt that the court would implicitly obey the authority and execute the powers conferred upon it by the law which created it. If not, could the courts in any Province resist the authority of the Court of Appeal upon the ground that the Parliament of Canada had no constitutional right or power to take away or destroy any of the jurisdiction inherent in the original and constitutional powers of the judiciary of the Provinces. It seems to me not. If the attempt were made, it would fail for two reasons, firstly, the right could not be maintained upon any sound constitutional principle, and secondly, the court possesses no power within itself to enforce its authority. The Provincial Legislature could not be relied upon for aid because the Court in the position assumed sets aside the latter authority also. If the British North America Act had expressly conferred this jurisdiction, though the power to enforce it in opposition to the will of the legislature would be wanting, yet it would be reasonable to suppose that as the constitution had invested the judiciary with this power, the legislature, in deference to the constitution, would yield a willing compliance to the opinion of the Judges, and provide the necessary authority to enable the judgments of the Courts to be put into execution. But if the judiciary in the entire absence of such an authority should refuse to administer the law as declared by the legislative authority, we need not be surprised if the legislature, acting in the best interests of the country, should feel constrained to assert its supremacy, and insist upon its administration without any question of the authority from which it emanated, leaving that to be determined by the only authority known to the Colonial