

liament. Our sea coast and inland fisheries, the navigation of our waters, and the rights and duties of ship-owners, ship-masters, and seamen therein, are as exclusively subject to our own legislation as is compatible with the rights of other British subjects; our own people of the above three classes, and their property, being subject only to our own laws when in our own waters, though entitled to and enjoying elsewhere the full protection of the Empire which governs and protects our fellow subjects of the same classes when here. Our currency laws and systems of finance and banking are such as we choose to make them. The metallic emblems of our currency are only coined in England because we do not deem it advisable to have a mint here, as our fellow-subjects have in Australia. We revel in the luxury of a public debt, all our own, and manage or mismanage it ourselves exclusively, as seems best in our own eyes. So of our system of public institutions. So of our penitentiaries, reformatories, asylums, hospitals, and other similar public institutions. So of our universities, colleges, and public schools. So of our copyright laws,* and laws respecting patents for inventions and discoveries, and trade-marks and designs. So of our systems of weights and measures. So of our laws of naturalization, marriage, and divorce, and other laws, civil and criminal, for the regulation of persons, property, and civil rights generally. So of our relations with the aborigines, and the management of the lands reserved to them by treaty. So of our quarantine laws, regulations, and establishments. So of the regulation of trade and commerce, internal and external. So of our municipal institutions of

every kind. So of the creation of new Provinces, altering the boundaries and divisions of such Provinces, and amending the constitutions of Provinces. So of our militia, and naval and military volunteers. So of the maintenance of peace and order within our country, and its defence generally, which is now recognised as our duty and our privilege, subject only to the necessity, also recognised, of that assistance from the forces of the Empire at large in cases of invasion, which we have been solemnly assured will be freely afforded. There remains only the subject of naval defence, that is to say, the defence of our tidal harbours and sea-coast fisheries, and of our ships and commerce on the high seas, and the subject of foreign relations and diplomacy. With respect to these, we are certainly as yet dependent upon the central Government of the Empire. But as to each, a commencement has already been made in the direction of securing to us as much independence as may be found consistent with the due co-relation of the parts of a great empire. Our power to build, man, arm, equip, maintain, and control vessels of war, has been solemnly recognised by laws of the realm. So has our power to perform, independently, the obligations of Canada, as a part of the British Empire, towards foreign countries. More than one Canadian had already been employed as an arbitrator or commissioner for the settlement of disputes arising under such treaties before one of our foremost politicians was selected, as Canadian politicians will in future, no doubt, often be selected, to assist in the negotiation of a treaty of the highest and most vital importance to the interests of the Empire, and of peace. The people of Canada have no power to make treaties; neither have the people of the United Kingdom. That power resides in the Sovereign of the great Empire in which both countries are included. But, as things are now, it is not only within

*[The writer is hardly correct in saying that in Canada we control our Copyright laws, unless he limits his reference to merely local Copyright. The legislation on this subject, of any appreciable benefit to Canada, which our legislators desired to effect, was in 1873 vetoed by the Imperial Government.—*Ed. C. M.*]