

to them as Sovereignities, remains as full and perfect as at first. In a word, their home relations, and the rights required for their enforcement, must be viewed as entirely within their possession. The *responsibility*, therefore, of the Executive Officers of any Colony to the people of that Colony, should be as perfect and complete as in the Mother Country. But, under our present system, this cannot be. We have not separated offices and powers, in their nature distinctly marked. Opposite and impossible functions are required of Colonial Ministers. They owe a double and incompatible responsibility; and this absurd state must endure, until a full and free representation in the Halls of Westminster shifts to the Colonial Representative the Imperial portion of the burden. Responsible Government is a mere comedy, or rather a broad farce, until this change takes place; and we are firmly in the belief, also, that no long period can be permitted safely to pass by, without its adoption. Representation, as it exists in the various Colonies, needs much improvement. Defective, however, as it is, the system is yet sufficient for the conduct of home affairs. Home organization is simply municipal; but we require something more—more, indeed! Our exterior relations are at the mercy of a Colonial Secretary—our feelings, our wants, our wishes, are unknown to the mass of the Empire. Even our economical connections with them are imperfectly understood. We need, and should have, as an integral portion of the British community, our Representatives on the floor of St. Stephens. Our grain, our fisheries, our timber, our transit trade, our inter-Colonial traffic, require enlarged and detailed explanation, to be rightly valued. None but a Canadian can represent these interests really, and in no other place than the Halls of the Imperial Parliament effectively. We may go yet farther. Consider how few questions can be debated there, that stretch not beyond the shores of Britain, most directly or by circumstance touching some Colonial interest. Yet are these matters, meting ruin sometimes to thousands, passed lightly. No advocate is there to call attention to results, and prevent hasty and ignorant legislation.

Nor do these specialities, grievously as they bear upon us, do more that afford their trifle of weight to the great argument of representation. We are Britons—as much, truly, as the good people of the metropolitan counties of Middlesex or Surrey. In that which concerns the whole Empire, we are compromised. We ask, therefore, is it more than natural, is it not indeed right, that we should have a voice in those councils, whose resolves may involve the most serious consequences to the vast community of which we claim to be a part? There are general questions, likewise, having a peculiar local bearing. Were not the interests of New Brunswick something at issue in the Ashburton Treaty? And had a Representative