

the answer and a *Face about* the concluding argument. I greatly suspect that such would be here the answer and the argument returned to a still simpler question put to our politicians; namely to require of them a clear definition of the word *Constitution* in general. So long however as people shall not agree upon its definite import, so long shall questions resting on it remain insoluble.

This difficulty is particularly applicable to the English constitution. One of its greatest merits and, it might boldly be said its excellence consists in its simplicity. Like *truth itself* it can but lose by any attempt to comment upon it. Every one fancies that he discovers therein some obscurity and in his endeavours to dispel that obscurity, he finds himself at last involved in the intricacies of his own sophistry.

Action constitutes life, whilst inertness may very properly be assimilated to death. To produce action there must be an Agent endowed with sufficient power to overcome any possible resistance. That power must be without equal, for if vested in more than one, either they will act jointly, and be directed to one single object and then they act as one, or they will act in opposition to each other, and irregularity, inertness and even death will be the result.

The British Constitution is perfectly consonant with this simple principle. The Imperial Parliament is that sole and unique Agent which gives life and action to the whole Empire. Having no superior power by which it can be protected, that august body must essentially possess the power of protecting itself, and therefore such prerogatives are attributed to it as are sufficient for that purpose. No other portion of the Community can claim any participation in those exclusive privileges, because first they are under the protection of that high and mighty power, and secondly if such prerogatives were attributed to them, they might be used to oppose or resist the principal agent, and then, if not stop the action, at least disorder the motion of the whole. The British Constitution insures protection to all those who live within the sphere of its influence, from the petty Constable in the execution of his Ministry to the highest Courts of Judicature; from the Soldier in the ranks to the leaders of hosts; from the meanest cottager to the Sovereign on his throne. It prescribes to every one, in the most distinct manner, the extent and the nature of his duty and out of the strict observance of every ones duty result the inviolability of the rights of all.

Admitting the truth of the above premises, let us dare to shew that it is to a dereliction from these simple principles that our present distracted state is to be attributed. The Imperial Parliament considering that the locality of these Provinces hin-