

upon this episode—painful though it is—because of its effect upon the political physiography of the Continent. We would be less Canadian in sentiment than we are, had we not made the sacrifices demanded of us by the war of 1812, and it is possible we should be less attached to Great Britain than we are, had she not defended us as gallantly as she did. And while we harbor no resentment, nor must we, using the words of your great poet, James Russell Lowell, "attempt the Future's portal with the Past's bloodruined key," we cannot in the light of history but admit that the diplomacy which led to the War of 1812, contributed not a little to the formation of a Canadian nationality, and to that political cleavage of the North American Continent which we find has become more marked than it was at the close of the Revolutionary War.

Following the War of 1812, during a period of say forty or fifty years, the people on both sides of the lines appear to have been fully occupied with the settlement of their wild lands, the development of their manufactures, the construction of railways and the various social and political problems which in the natural course of events arise in progressive communities and in popular assemblies. In the evolution of government attachments were formed for the institutions which they created, and in many cases it was not so much a question whether republican or monarchical methods were better, but rather a question of preference for methods to which the people had been accustomed. Though the voice of the social and political reformer was not entirely hushed, the vigor of his tones was to a certain extent subdued by that conservative spirit which comes with wider experience and with riper years. The prosperity which accompanied the phenomenal energy of the American citizen, even at that time, deepened his convictions that republicanism had exceptional virtues. The comfort and security which Canadians felt under the protecting hand of Great Britain increased their confidence in the advantages of colonial self-government. In your case, as well as in ours, there were doubtless wrongs to be removed, but the power of removal lay with the peoples respectively. Strange as it may appear, some of what you might call the anomalies of the early Constitution of Canada were among its greatest safeguards. Let me mention a few:

(1) As I have already said, the French-Canadians were allowed to retain, in a great measure, the institutions they enjoyed at the time of the Conquest, such as the use of the French language in the Courts of law and in the Parliaments of