

cial legislation possessed by the Dominion Government, would be willing to allow the provinces complete autonomy, provided some of the powers the provincial legislatures now possess were transferred to the Dominion Parliament, so that only matters of local interest would be within the jurisdiction of the provincial legislatures. Under such an arrangement the right to charter railways and many other powers possessed by the legislatures at present would be withdrawn. If, in providing for local government in all parts of the British Islands, the local legislatures are given jurisdiction only in purely local matters, there will be no necessity for disallowance of provincial acts, and a great many conflicts and much ill-feeling will be avoided.

Another question for consideration is whether the members of the local legislatures shall be allowed to sit in the British Parliament also. During the early years of confederation in Canada, some of the most prominent politicians had seats in both provincial and Dominion parliaments at the same time, but before long serious objections were found to this system of representation, and now members of the provincial legislatures cannot sit in the Dominion Parliament.

The careful student of American history cannot fail to note that good government depends more upon the character of the people than upon the form of constitution. The constitutions of the United States and Canada are in many important respects essentially different, yet both countries are peaceful and progressive. Mexico and the Central American States are republics, with constitutions modelled after that of the United States, and revolutions frequently occur. The good government of Ireland under any system of Home Rule that can be devised will depend very much upon the Irish people, but it seems to me that a system ensuring the integrity of the United Kingdom, while recognizing the principle of Home Rule, will be most likely to bring about an Irish evolution.

WATSON GRIFFIN.

Montreal, Canada.