

pire Loyalists. But the conquest of responsible government, coupled as it was with the rash and unjust union of Upper and Lower Canada, did not put an end to racial and religious feuds. It simply displaced the ground of battle. The struggle, instead of being pursued between the French and Catholic subjects of the King against English Governors and their salaried creatures, was now pursued between French and Catholic Lower Canada and English and Protestant Upper Canada. But precisely because Canadians alone were concerned, with practically no more interference from Downing Street, and no influence exercised by any faction or party in England over any section of the Canadian people, the more thoughtful and patriotic Canadians, of both races and creeds, soon hit upon the means of adjusting their differences.

From that admirable coordination of efforts, Confederation was brought to life. In the sphere of Imperial politics, the new constitution preserved and enlarged the measure of Home Rule secured under the Act of Union of 1841. In the adjustment of internal difficulties, it accomplished a great deal more. Indeed, it was based on a radically different principle. The Union Act had been inspired by the thought and desire of subduing the French. The free alliance of both races and nationalities, with absolute equality of rights in every part of Canada, was the basic principle of the British North America Act.

The Principle of Confederation: Union, not Fusion, of Races

Frequent comparisons have been made between the American constitution and the national Charter of the Dominion of Canada. The respective peculiarities of those constitutions, their relative superiority in matters purely political or judicial, I will not consider at present. But in the eye of all those who believe in the preservation of the noblest assets of humanity, of the highest standards of nationality and civilisation, the superiority of the Canadian constitution is obvious.

Under the American constitution, the exaggerated supremacy of State rights over national unity eventually caused the most protracted and bloody civil war of modern times. On the other hand, no provision was made for the preservation of the moral rights of the various ethnical groups which had brought their contribution to the making of the nation. The adoption and the rapid spreading of a uniform system of public education, largely deprived of religious and idealistic inspiration, soon developed the germs of mob rule, greed for gold, and worship of material success, which threaten to poison and debase the civilisation of that great country.

In Canada, each province received a reasonable measure of Home Rule, compatible with and subordinate to the principle of national unity. But above all, the principle was acknowledged that, in each province, the rights of the minority, Catholic or Protestant, as the case may be, were to be respected, in matters of Church or-