

itself in wealth and influence, and its colleges, missions, and literature, are widely known.

But in Canada this body is only one of the smaller tribes of Israel, scarce worthy of a name in the numeration of religious bodies. Yet it is respectable and influential. It occupies a foremost place in the general religious activities of the country, and its principles of freedom and congregational action as opposed to centralized authority, are gradually becoming prevalent in nearly all the churches.

The recent creation of a new title to be the chief appellation of one of the Royal Family, Prince Arthur being now known as Duke of Connaught, although it has stirred the circle to its depths which makes heraldic distinctions a fetish, is not an event which means much or can be of any possible service or interest to the world outside. It may, however, help us to appreciate the utter vanity of these mere titular links between the several portions of the United Kingdom, to remember that out of five titles worn by the Royal line of England since a grandson of George II. was made Earl of Ulster, titles created to identify Ireland with the Royal Family, not one is held by their descendants except that of Earl of Armagh, which is held by the ex-King of Hanover. Two Earls of Ulster have been created, and two Earls of Dublin, and Earls of Connaught and Munster and Tipperary, and a Baron of Arklow, but not a single one wearing these honors ever lived in Ireland, or is known, or even supposed to have exercised any influence, beneficiary or otherwise, in Irish political or social life. We err in saying they have had no influence for evil, for the wearing of these titles taken from a land they never dwelt in, gives to the non-resident aristocracy the implied sanction of the Court and Throne. Imagination is doubtless a very potent factor in life,—in Irish life especially; but it is an almost delirious fancy to believe that the mere naming a Royal Prince after an Irish Province can be of any moment or interest or good to those in that island who are struggling with the business cares and domestic anxieties and political problems which harass

the people of Ireland so chronically. To bind a people to a reigning family who are disaffected, there needs be action touching the deeper springs of human emotion and faith; some sacrifice of self-interest or comfort, or conventional dignity; some evidence, in a word, that those who want the love and confidence of others have it for and in those they seek the regard of. What men sow they reap. Grapes grow neither on thorns nor dead fences, as those must believe who expect the hearts of a people to go out loyally to a dynasty because one of the family is identified with their country by a geographical name. So far from adding to the mere nominal roll of Irish Peers, or English Peers with Irish names, like the Duke of Connaught is, it would be far better to take away the titles of non-resident Irish nobles and raise to their dignities men who are willing to fulfil the duties which alone originated and alone justify the retention of titular distinctions. It is significant that the only record of the endeavor of any Irish noble wearing the chief title of his order to be indeed what his title proclaims, a Duke, that is a leader, led to his being accused of high treason, as was the Duke of Ireland in the reign of Richard II. The Duke of Connaught is called by his title to be the Home Ruler of that province. Let him fill that rôle with the same graciousness of manner he ever showed in this city, and he would be indeed a living bond between it and the Crown; otherwise, if he is Duke only in name, we fear the words of an old historian will be true now as in the Tudor times. "*The Crown had no profit out of Connaught.*"

The political crisis in France fills us with the gravest alarm for the domestic peace of that nation. The attempt to disfranchise so large a proportion of the people after so many years' enjoyment of the privilege or right of voting, not only on the political issues raised in the locality of the voters, but directly, as in the various plebiscites on the highest questions of imperial policy, is itself a revelation more serious *per se* than those which ended only in the change of a dynasty or constitution. The gravity of a revolution is not measured by the violence with or by which it is accompanied