

Responsible Government prevails, in relation to the Imperial Government of Great Britain.

Viewed historically through the progressive steps which have led to that result, the self-governing position of the several States and of the North American Colonies, in relation to their respective National Governments, has been attained by an entirely different course; but it is with the result as it presents itself,—the conceded fact of such local self-government,—that we are to deal; and the analogy, it is claimed, is just and applicable in the connection in which it has been urged.

Upon the wisdom of that system known as “Responsible Government,” when conceded to the British North American Colonies, wise and able men entertained opposite opinions.

But that system has been for a considerable period established, and instances of no distant date will be in the minds of Colonists where the Home Government has held them to the extreme working of that system, although requested by large representative influence to interfere.

The question, then, as to extra-territorial powers assumed by Colonial Legislatures, has presented itself under these circumstances, and must be viewed in the light of existing facts.

The several States are supreme in their legislative powers *as to local affairs*, and the United States Government is supreme in all matters of a national character involving the mutual relations and interests of the States in their collective capacity with those of foreign countries. In like manner the Imperial Government of Great Britain, in conceding their present system of government to her North American Colonies, declares in effect, “In all matters of a local, private character you may legislate for and govern yourselves according to the well-understood wishes of your people, supporting the expense of such government, providing for it by local taxation, and remaining loyal to the British Crown;