

(despite the old saying that figures can be made to prove anything) is invaluable in the consideration of questions like those I have cursorily mentioned. It is only necessary to study the pages of the works of a man like Mr. Mulhall, the eminent English statist and economist, to see how important and useful is a scientific method of handling figures and drawing from them sound deductions as to a nation's prosperity or decline.

While it is to England that we naturally look for those lessons and examples of statesmanship and political sagacity, which may assist us in laying broad and deep the foundations of our political organization and social system, the student of Political Science cannot fail at the same time to draw much valuable instruction from a close and constant study of the institutions, national, state, and municipal, of our American neighbors. They, like ourselves have borrowed largely from the parent state, to which we both owe our origin, in organizing their system of government, and it is the common law of England, we all know, that lies at the basis of their system of jurisprudence. Some among us have a practice of depreciating American institutions, thinking that this is the best, as it is certainly sometimes the easiest, way of showing the superiority of our own political and social conditions; but after an honest and assiduous study of the political systems of both countries, I must fairly come to the conclusion that each of us may learn something from the other, and that there is a great deal to admire in the sagacity, the business-like methods, and the thorough organization of many of the institutions of our neighbors.

If we should study thoroughly the comprehensive and thoughtful work on the American Commonwealth by Prof. Bryce, one of those men who do honour to the great seat of learning on the banks of the Isis, we shall see that this particular study is full of encouragement and warning to us at one and the same time; but "its chief value," to quote his exact words, and apply them to ourselves rather than to England, "lies in what may be called the laws of political biology which it reveals, in the new illustrations and enforcements it supplies of general truths in social and political science, truths, some of which were presented long ago by Plato and Aristotle, but which might have been forgotten had not America poured a stream of light upon them."

As I have just said, both Canada and the United States can trace all the valuable institutions they possess to England. Their legislative bodies have been modelled on the great parliament of the parent state. The many differences that now exist between the government of Canada and that of the United States have arisen from the differences in the political circumstances and varying conditions of the two countries. The United States for more than a century and a half had been colonies of England, enjoying a system of legal and political institutions, which was their natural heritage as Englishmen. When their independence was acknowledged and it became necessary to mature a constitution adapted to the new state of things, they proceeded to frame a government, which throughout shows that they still considered the English government superior in essential respects to all other governments in the world. In the division of legislative, judicial and executive departments which they made, they showed their desire to adhere to those important principles which evoked the admiration of Montesquieu. The president was still the king of England, though he was deprived of powers which the Americans considered fatal to their liberty. He was given the right of veto over legislative acts and of appointing his own cabinet. But the council was not made responsible to or given seats