

America. I think it is Longfellow who speaks of the heat in which the constitution, symbolized under the name of the ship of state, was forged; in what a fire and what a heat it was framed. So afterwards was the Dominion of Canada established, and we too, in the formation of our constitution, were influenced, not by external operations, but by internal operations, and our constitution has a cast, has a direction from the conditions which existed when that constitution was adopted. Still, it is well to remember that while, to a certain extent, we have remained attached to the Crown of England, we are a self-governing people; and now the colony of Australia has framed a constitution too, and that constitution in its form differs from ours and from the constitution of the United States from the fact that there are no difficult questions, there are no great problems involved in uniting the commonwealth of Australia at all. It is simply a business transaction, arising out of the growth of those colonies, out of their desire for a united form of self-government, and they have adopted a constitution which the mother country sat down with them to make, and which I am sure will be a constitution which will afford a pattern at least for others which may follow, because we expect to see a greater development yet.

Now, there are three nations—and I may use that form of expression—which have gone out from the mother country within a century or thereabouts. When the colonies of Australia were first established, the country of course was known to British sailors who had landed on the coast. The Queen of England was just a child—was just born. In the sixty years which have elapsed under her reign, the Australian colonies have grown until they are over four millions of people. They occupy a splendid country, and have a much larger trade than we have. I think in 1897 their trade with the mother country and the world amounted to five hundred and sixty millions of dollars, and they have started on a career the limitations of which no man can at this moment imagine, because, being an island continent, they must have a navy. They have eight thousand miles of sea-coast, and they will control the south Pacific seas. Further than that, all those democratic

ideas which prevail among the middle classes of England and among the classes of England which have not reached the highest position in that country, the great ideas of democracy, of the public weal, have strongly permeated the Australian system the theory and the practice of government in the Australian colonies. In their arrangements for age pensions and in other ways they are far ahead of any other country to-day in legislation for the amelioration of the condition of mankind. We cannot look with any other feeling than one of profound interest on a colony which has sprung into existence in that manner. The late Queen sent to them for Governor General of their new commonwealth a gentleman who will rule well, Lord Hopetoun, and I think there opens before the world—I will not say a British dependency, but a British commonwealth which will carry out all those great ideas of advancement which the English people have been seeking to establish for the benefit of themselves and for the benefit of mankind generally. Therefore I think we should express to them our strong hope that they will succeed. I will not go into the political question. I observe that His Excellency the Governor General says that the constitution of the commonwealth of Australia is largely founded upon our own. That is so. At the same time, if hon. gentlemen desire to look into the matter more closely, they will find that the constitution of the Senate of Australia materially differs from that of the Dominion of Canada. I will not say that it is any improvement on ours, but at any rate it is a material advance along certain lines, and I have no doubt there are gentlemen in this Chamber who would approve of the Australian system. However, we send them our best wishes and our hopes for a great future. We hope all their ideas will be realized, and that on that island continent may be the homes of many people who will develop not only their own land, but all those southern lands which have required so much of the finishing touch of civilization.

I will pass to another matter. Another paragraph in the speech refers to the probable visit here of the Duke of Cornwall and York. There appears to be information conveyed in the paragraph that it may not