

a deep sense of gratitude. There is now no meddling, interfering, or repressive government. It has given place to a self-governing, free, and uncontrolled system, in which the full fruition of perfect liberty is enjoyed, and the noblest prerogatives of freeborn Englishmen can be asserted. In failing to recognise the advantages of the modern system, there is the danger of reverting to the rule either of despotism or dogmatism, for such would be the inevitable effect of the references to councils; of the appeals to central authority; the necessity for Imperial control, either actual or implied. Mutual annoyance, if not disgust, would be the result of such complicated authority. And it may be enquired, would the Colonies yield obedience, gain advantages, or secure anything which is not otherwise attainable?

The inherent vices of councils and conferences have also been forgotten by those who have advocated them as means for improving the relations between the Colonies and Great Britain. Let the Œcumenical Council, with its lengthened sittings and its powerless decrees be excluded from consideration, but what shall be said of our own Pan-Anglican Synod? Did any respectable advantages accrue to Church or State? Think of the lay conferences, of the conferences of deputies of the three denominations, of conferences about education, of reform in Parliament. They one and all produce nausea to minds that know how measures of great public import are moulded—how the Council of the Empire consolidates power, secures influence, and obtains concurrence to its proceedings—how that constitution has been shaped, which our