

and are in this measure setting the crown to the free institutions which more than a century ago we gave them."

The Lords listened with no little amazement to the expositing of the Bill by the Colonial Secretary. "Is this the Canada," they said, "we heard of in our schoolboy days, that is now proposing to form a Confederation? We thought it was a wild and frozen country, just a few arpents of snow, but the Colonial Secretary says it has a population of over 3,000,000, and is rich in all sorts of agricultural and mineral products. Well, if the Canadians want a new Constitution, let them have it; we like to see the young offshoots from the parent stem prosper."

On the 26th of February, the Bill reached its final stage in the House of Lords, and was sent to the House of Commons in charge of Mr. Adderley, Under-Secretary for the Colonies. On the 28th, it reached a second reading, during which Mr. Adderley, in summing up the objects of the Bill, said:

"I think the time has gone by for either the Parliament or the Government of England to attempt to teach colonies like these (the Canadian Colonies) their interests better than they can judge of them themselves. Was there ever, let me ask, a country so composed by nature to form a great and united community. By their mutual resources and the extension of their different interests, they would make together a strong and prosperous nation. One National Government composed of the best men out of all the Provinces would draw out and develop the resources of the country for the common interest. We are engaged in a great and grave undertaking, no less than liberating to its national destiny and self-reliance and innate growth and expansion, a large portion of the best quarter of this earth. * * * The northern half of this large continent (America), still British, is now asking us to assist them to develop their own strength and resources, and retain connection and partnership of allegiance to one common Sovereign. I have confidence that this House will willingly contribute its sanction to the measure introduced."

On the 4th of March, the Bill was reported, and on the 29th of March, received Her Majesty's assent, and subsequently by Royal Proclamation was brought into force on the 1st day of July, 1867.

And now the goal is reached, the copy is approved, Canada has a new name. It is no longer a Province, it is a Dominion. The delegates in London would have called it the "Kingdom" of Canada, but Lord Derby substituted the name "Dominion," and so it has been ordered. A good name, too, better than "Kingdom" without a King,—a name of good Latin stock, "Dominus," a master. Dominion of Canada, therefore, means the masterhood of Canada; that is, we Canadians are Dominionites, the constitutional masters of Canada. That is what the Conference secured for us, who will not say "God bless the Fathers of Confederation." "Dominion" is a growing name, too, now applied by the Colonial Office to New Zealand, and incorporated into His Majesty's title of "His Majesty's Dominions beyond the Seas."