

it is to God that we must ascend in order to discover its source; it is He himself who has delegated it to men for the preservation of the community fresh from His hands.

“‘To God alone,’ says the Apostle Jude, ‘belongeth dominion and power’ (verse 25). ‘By me kings reign and princes decree justice,’ saith the Lord in the Book of Proverbs (ch. 8, v. 15). Jesus Christ teaches us our duties towards those in authority when he says, ‘Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s, and unto God the things that are God’s.’ (St. Matthew, ch. 22, v. 21.) St. Paul saith, ‘Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers; for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore he that resisteth the power withstandeth the ordinance of God.’ (Romans, ch. 13 v. 1–2). And in order further to convince us, he adds, ‘Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience’ sake.’ (Romans, ch. 5, v. 5.).

“Therefore, my very dear brethren, inasmuch as the federal union which is going into operation, proceeds from lawful authority, you will regard it as a law for yourselves, and you will obey the command of God by obeying it in all sincerity. It is, besides to your interest to do so, as it is a matter of conscience, in order that it may result in the common good, and in this way secure the benefits to individuals. Soon you will be called upon to choose those who either in the Federal Parliament or in the local Legislature will work to put into practice the new Constitution. You will then guard against giving your votes in favour of those who are disposed to fight against it or prevent its working, but you will give them to citizens proved and acknowledged as having at heart the wish to make it useful in promoting the greatest good of the country.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, you may go amongst our parish priests in Lower Canada, and you will find that every one of them—men of talent and science as they are—you will find that they teach to those who surround them that they must from the bottom of their hearts pay obedience to the laws, and be faithful and loyal to the Crown. That is one of the reasons why we are loyal. It is also our interest to be loyal. In this country we enjoy the fullest freedom that citizens of any country may expect. We practice freely our religion, we talk our language, we enjoy our own customs, and we live in peace and harmony with all the different races and creeds of the Dominion. We enjoy a constitution which we admire, and we are proud of being British subjects, because we belong to a country which has mastered nearly the whole world, and because the constitution of that country is based on an experience of centuries, and assures the liberty of the people. We are loyal because we find freedom, justice, and peace under that constitution. We do not believe—for my part I do not believe—and I know that I express the views of my constituents, when I say that they do not believe in the republican form of government under which a president or an executive becomes an autocrat for four years after an election. We believe in the British constitution, under which the majority of the people are always and every moment commanding. We believe that, with the civilisation and enlightenment of the present century, the people are fully able to govern themselves by themselves; and this is the sense of the form of government we have received from England. Of course, we would feel some pride in being our own masters, in having no colonial tie; but, Mr. Speaker, the advantages we derive from that tie—the protection of the British flag all over the seas, and our more intimate relations with the English people—fully compensate for the want of that sentiment of pride in being our own masters. Besides, if in years past England has been perhaps unfair to Canada, of late years, I must say, she has become more and more just, she has been extending greater liberties to Canada, she has come to look upon us as one of her most important possessions, one of her possessions most able to govern itself; and we have the pleasure of seeing every day that English statesmen are learning more about Canada, and are coming more to respect her and to give her full protection. I find in an English author a *résumé* of the benefits which we derive from British connexion. Dr. Withrow, in his “History of Canada,” says:—

“The conquest of Canada by the British was the most fortunate event in its history. It supplanted the institutions of the middle ages by those of modern civilisation. It gave local self-government for abject submission to a foreign power and a corrupt court. It gave the protection of the *Habeas Corpus* and trial by jury instead of the oppressive tribunals of feudalism. For ignorance and repression it gave cheap schools and a free press. It removed the arbitrary shackles from trade and abolished its unjust monopolies. It enfranchised the serfs of the soil and restricted the excessive power of the *seigneurs*. It gave an immeasurably ampler liberty to the people and a loftier impulse to progress