

They were the makers of Canada. They were real Empire builders. History is simply repeating itself.

Resolution three. "In framing a Constitution for the general government, the Conference with a view to the perpetuation of our connection with the Mother Country and the promotion of the best interests of the people of these provinces, desire to follow the model of the British Constitution so far as our circumstances will permit". "The perpetuation of our connection with the Mother Country". There we have it again. Can you not tell whose hand traced these words? Are they not the first vibration of that patriotic chord, which, like a Beethoven symphony, thrilled Canadians seventeen years ago, "A British subject I was born and a British subject I shall die". Well said. Though he sleeps in Cataraqui Cemetery, his soul goes marching on.

"We desire to follow the model of the British Constitution." Well, they had a model to begin with a good thing to have, either in Art or in Constitution building. "The British Constitution" a model of ancient workmanship, begun a thousand years ago, but adapted by the genius of the British nation, through the changing centuries, to ever varying conditions. Kings and Queens helped to fashion it, and, although occasionally the principle on which it was designed was disregarded, it has survived the strife of faction, the malice of its enemies, and stands today, in the words of Lord Rosebery, "The greatest power for Righteousness the world has ever seen". Verily a precious model, let us see how it was formed.

Alfred the Great said the British Constitution must be the will of the people, and he gave his Anglo-Saxon followers shires and sheriffs and aldermen and local councils. William the Conqueror said the British Constitution requires the buttress of an aristocracy, hereditary landlords, great estates, inalienable franchises, that its continuity might be preserved, and so we got a refined feudalism. King John said reluctantly and to save his Crown, that the ancient laws of the realm should be preserved and the liberty of the subject inviolate, and gave us Magna Charta. Edward I, said, the people of England, differentiated as three estates of the realm, shall say how England shall be governed, and accordingly he assembled the first Parliament of England for that purpose. Henry VIII said, there shall be no interference in Church or State by any foreign potentate or hierarchy, and so the British Constitution became the exponent of religious liberty as determined by the people of England. Queen Elizabeth said, the British Constitution should define the forms of religious worship, and henceforth a State Church became an essential part of its functions. The Stuarts said, the people shall be taxed only as Parliament orders, (but they did not mean it) and no man's liberty shall be restrained except by process of law, (and they didn't mean that either) and so we have Habeas Corpus and the Bill