

Insularity, Egotism, Self-Sufficiency, eh? O, no. Confidence based on deeds done.

I would have my country strong, resourceful—a real factor in the family of nations of the British Commonwealth and in the still wider family of nations at large.

If the Old Mother is able to supply the needs of the family in men of long and varied experience in world affairs, let Canada and Australia and New Zealand and the rest furnish the old firm with young partners alive and able to contribute woodcraft, and watercraft and aircraft and carry on with an enlarged and enlivened programme that will be for the common good.

It is rather satisfying to find oneself in accord with someone else in this sort of thing; especially so when that someone is a statesman of the larger sort. In the heart of London in December, 1912, the Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour said:

“The people of Canada and the other overseas Dominions must have and will have their feelings of nationality. Every Canadian ought to want to feel that Canada has got her principles and development and future. Do not let us discourage that local patriotism. Let them cultivate their own feeling of nationality: Canada for the Canadians, Australia for the Australians, but the whole for the Empire.”

Upon his return to England from his auspicious Canadian and American tours, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales said (Jan. 29, 1920):

“The people of the Old Country must realize that the patriotism of the Dominions is national patriotism and not mere loyalty to Great Britain. It is loyalty to their own British institutions; it is loyalty to the world-wide British system of life and government; and above all to the British Empire, of which Great Britain, like the Dominions, is only a part.

“The King, as the constitutional sovereign of the Empire, occupies exactly the same place in Canada and the whole of the British Empire as he does in Great Britain.”

And in proof of the practice of their professed belief, may I add that Arthur J. Balfour afterwards accepted honorary membership in the Canadian Club of Montreal, and that recently Edward the Discerning became the Patron of the Association of Canadian Clubs.

And finally with old Polonius, the Chamberlain, let me conclude:

“This above all: To thine ownself be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man. Farewell: My blessing season this in thee.”