

of the province are very persistent in asserting provincial rights, feeling that it is only by a strict adherence to the constitution they can preserve their provincial autonomy. So far, though questions of jurisdiction are constantly arising between the general and the local government, they are being solved satisfactorily in the courts, and whatever differences of opinion may arise on these matters of constitutional law there is none as to the necessity of preserving the Federal System in its entirety, since it ensures better than any other system of government the rights and interests of the French Canadian population in all those matters most deeply affecting a people speaking a language, professing a religion, and retaining certain institutions, different from those of the majority of the people of the Dominion. Happily for the interests of Quebec, the public men of that province are as a rule men of high attainments, who would grace any legislative body in the world. Thoroughly appreciating the advantages of representative institutions, and of the connection with Great Britain, the best minds among them constitute a bulwark of strength to the Confederation. We see this fact strikingly exemplified in the career of one of the most liberal minded and patriotic statesmen French Canada has produced, the late Sir George Etienne Cartier, who always understood the importance of confederation from a national as well as provincial standpoint, and devoted the closing years of his life to the perfection of that great measure. It was a fitting tribute to the services of that eminent man that Canada should have erected a statue to his memory in the noble square on which stands her Parliament House, where now annually assemble more than two hundred representatives of a people whose limits extend over a territory larger than that of any other country in the world except the Russian Empire.

[The question may now suggest itself to my readers, Will the French Canadian nationality continue to work in harmony with the English-speaking people, or is there danger at some future time of a strong antagonism between these two elements, which may tend to destroy the unity of the confederation? Professor Seeley, in his very suggestive work on the 'Expansion of the Empire,' says that ethnological unity is 'of great importance when we would form an opinion about the stability or chance of