



THE subject of this appeal has reference to an undertaking which, in the common interests of the Dominion, the Canadian Club of Halifax has felt it a public duty to initiate. The immediate object of the undertaking is to commemorate, in a fitting manner, the birth of British Parliamentary Government within the limits of Greater Britain.

A century and a half ago, two historical events occurred nearly at the same time. The first in chronological order, seemed for many years to be of little moment. It consisted of a gathering of a few persons—representing the new settlers in Nova Scotia. The second was a conflict on the Plains of Abraham, at Quebec. The first occurred on October 2nd, 1758; the second on September 13th, 1759. The first was the initial meeting of nineteen out of twenty persons elected by command of the authorities in England to form a legislature. The second was an encounter between the armed forces of the two most powerful nations of Western Europe. The two events had no resemblance, and can scarcely be compared. The battle marked the end of political conditions which had existed for a hundred and fifty years. The small initial assembly marks the beginning of the policy of self-government which has been continuously developed during the succeeding century and a half, and which seems destined to be continued while the civilized nations of the world endure.

The brilliant celebration at Quebec last summer, witnessed by vast multitudes, and honoured specially by the presence of the heir to the British Throne, and by representatives of the various parts of the Empire, bears eloquent testimony to the sentiments which Canadians of every origin entertain for their national traditions.