

so restive, as in those times. Every age and every set of circumstances prescribe their own duties to statesmen, and just as truly as it might have been right and wise for the American Congress of eighty years ago to declare its utter severance from the European system, so equally truly, may it be wise and right for Canadian statesmen of this day to cultivate the connexion, and to endeavour, on patriotic grounds, to extend to these shores the international law of Europe.

The Union of British America into one nationality would, then, according to our view, perpetuate our connexion with the European family of States, and make this country instrumental in bringing the whole of America within the circle of international law. To enable us to play this distinguished part before both the New and the Old Worlds, it is essential that we should have first a constitution, framed from our own *sensus communis*; the offspring and image of our own intelligence; a constitution to love and to live for; a cherished inheritance for our children; in comprehension, noble; in justice, admirable; in wisdom, venerable.

Pleading for such a constitution, it is neither logical nor witty to meet us with objections of detail, as to the cost or incongruity of a larger infusion of the monarchical element which we advocate. How this or the other detail may best be contrived is not for any individual to answer in advance. Our race have had but one way of arriving at such results from the beginning, and that is, by taking the *sensus communis* of the people to be governed. Whether on the Thames or the Delaware, at Runnymede or Philadelphia, that is the mode by which, in the past, the English-speaking communities have searched their own hearts, and obeyed the dictates of their own best judgments. We will not, therefore, argue details with any one; we will not wrangle over this subject as disputants; it is a matter more for contemplation than for controversy in its first stages, as it must be a matter for the decision of the community, acting as such, in its last.

All these changes which we advocate, internal and external, we may be told, tend to one result—separation from the Empire. We would be altogether misunderstood if any reader was left under that impression. That which we advocate we do most sincerely believe to be the only means to perpetuate a future connection between Great Britain and the trans-oceanic Provinces of the Empire, which connection is the interest of these Provinces; and of civilization itself we hold to be beyond all price desirable. What we advocate is to substitute for the present provincial connection of dissociated provinces, belonging to rather than being of the Empire, a new explicit relation, more suited to our actual wants, dangers, and dimensions, in other words, a modification of the Federal principle, reduced to the conditions