

bodies including Great Britain and Ireland, in the determination of our relations with the world outside the Commonwealth.

It is relatively a matter of not much consequence, how far we may elect to go in either course at the moment. We will probably choose the wise course and make haste slowly. What does matter is, whether the choice favours a policy or a tendency to voluntary co-operation, or a policy or tendency to co-operation in federation.

The time at my disposal will not permit me to reason the case. I can but state a conviction, which I believe must be reached by careful inquirers that a policy of voluntary co-operation within the Empire means separation. There would doubtless be many years of continued connection and harmonious association, and after the tie was broken co-operative conditions would frequently recur. The fact is, voluntary co-operation is a contradiction of terms. You cannot have co-operation if those who are to co-operate are at liberty to share or refuse to share as from time to time they may choose. The inevitable result of a relationship in which the members would only support one another when they elected to do so, is that the relationship as a vital force, must cease. To those who say "What of it if it does?" I will only remark that I believe the spiritual power which these Empire relations have brought to us, and which will deepen as the Overseas Dominions and Great Britain draw closer together, is the power which will make Canada great in world affairs, and will help to preserve her from selfish insularity, and self-centered nationalism.

"And Lot lifted up his eyes and beheld all the plains of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere. So Lot chose him all the plains of Jordan and Lot journeyed East and they separated themselves the one from the other. Ahram dwelled in the Land of Canaan and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plains and pitched his tent towards Sodom."

If we have federation, can we preserve our autonomy, and develop what we term national spirit and yet give sustained allegiance to the commonwealth in which we are sharers? If we cannot, I want none of it. I will yield no jot or tittle of our