

have evidence how little the public men of Canada are influenced by their intercourse with the United States. A thorough study of the British system, which requires Ministers to have seats, and receive the support of a majority, in Parliament, has clearly shown Canada its advantages over the American system. Indeed, the latter existed to a certain extent in Canada in those days when the governors appointed their executive councils without reference to the legislature. After an experience of over forty years of the working of responsible government, Canadians have become thoroughly convinced that the presence in the legislature of a body of men responsible to the Commons and to the country for the administration of public affairs, and for the conduct of legislation, has decided advantages over a system which gives the whole executive government to the President, and does not allow his ministers to sit or speak in either branch of Congress. Whenever it is necessary to form a Ministry in Canada, members are summoned by the Governor-General to the Privy Council of Canada; another illustration of the desire of the Canadians to imitate the old institutions of the parent state, and copy their time-honoured names. The government of the day is generally known as the Ministry or Cabinet, but there is no distinction as in England between those designations.

The Parliament of Canada consists of the Queen, a Senate, and a House of Commons. In the construction of the Upper Chamber or Senate, there has been an attempt to give it a shade of resemblance to the distinguished body of the same name in the United States. In the American Senate each State is represented by two members, and consequently little Rhode Island or Delaware has as much influence in the body as New York or Pennsylvania. In the formation of the Canadian Senate, each province has not the same number of Senators, but three geographical groups were arranged in the first instance, consisting of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, and to each group was allotted a representation of twenty-four members. More recently new provinces have been admitted into the Dominion without reference to this arrangement, and now there are altogether seventy-eight senators in Parliament. Between the functions and responsibilities of the Canadian Senate and those of the