

while the United States, having long ago become a national sovereignty, has raised on the foundations of a constitution, based itself on principles drawn largely from those of the English constitution, a great structure which has in the course of years undergone many modifications in the working out of the original plans, in order to adapt it to the practical needs of the people and the modern conditions of a democratic government. The architecture may now be considered of a political composite order, in which we see that, though the design of the original founders has been varied in many respects, yet after all the very pillars that support the noble dome that crowns the edifice rise from the foundations of the English common law and of that parliamentary system which have enabled England as well as the United States to attain a foremost position among the nations of the world. It has been the good fortune of Canada to develop slowly under the fostering care of England, and to have been able to survey at a reasonable distance the details of the structure raised by her neighbor; and consequently when her statesmen came less than a quarter of a century ago to enlarge the political sphere of the provinces of British North America, and to give greater expansion to the energies of her people in the organization of a federal union, they were able to base it on those principles which the experience of the mother country and of the United States showed them were best adapted to give strength and harmony to all the political parts, and enable them as a whole to work out successfully their experiment of government on the northern half of this continent.

It is not necessary to make any comparisons between the constitutional and political systems of Canada and the United States before 1867, when the provinces were isolated communities, offering many points of comparison with the old confederated colonies previous to the adoption of the present constitution. It is the Union of 1867 that now makes such comparisons possible; for then was

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