

now recognizes fully her obligations to maintain a well organized militia force for purposes of order and defence; and the British tax-payer can no longer assert with any degree of justice that the connection with this important dependency is a cause of taxation. Englishmen see in this very fact so much evidence of the rapid development of the new Dominion. They cannot fail to admit that her people are proving to the world every day that they possess those qualities which go to constitute a nation. The thought will then probably occur to an Englishman that the prestige of his country will hardly be enhanced in the opinion of Europe, if all those great Colonial dependencies that form the Empire were to be allowed to separate without an effort to draw them closer to the parent State. At a time when other peoples in Europe are ambitious to found colonies, it would indeed be strange that Britain, the greatest colonizer among the nations, should allow herself, through her own indifference, to be isolated eventually from those countries which it is her most enduring glory to have founded.

The history of the constitutional progress of Canada is peculiarly instructive, because it illustrates so clearly the beneficial effects of the liberal Colonial policy which was first developed practically by Lord John Russell in 1839, and steadily carried out by his successors in the office of Colonial Secretary, notably by Earl Grey in 1847, when Lord Elgin was appointed Governor-General. This new policy, which reunited the Canadas, and conceded to them a larger measure of self-government, was an entire reversal of the policy which had characterized the administration of Colonial affairs for more than half a century. From 1792 to 1840 Canada was governed from Downing Street. This was the period memorable in Colonial history for the steady interference of the Imperial authorities in the internal affairs of the country. In 1792 the Imperial Government established representative Assemblies both in Upper and Lower Canada, with the object, as stated by a Lieutenant-Governor, of giving the people a form of government which would be, 'as far as the circumstances of the country would permit, an image and transcript of the British Constitution.' But this new system was extremely defective in a vital part. It was after all but a mere