

They greet each candle-gleam as a star;
And plod and plod
O'er muddy sod
To find it flickering in the mire.

They are blind,
The ones who gaze upon the day
In despair;
They see naught beyond sighing trees.
While rays of Hope
And doves of Love
Await a garret in their reality.
A narrow span
From man to man—
Their bridge above Hell's gaping seas.

They are lost,
Seeking all on this sullen sod;
Forgetting, rejecting,
Ignoring the gleaming
Of the tangent leading to God.

—GEORGE KEEFE '51

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The first session of the Twenty-first Parliament will go down in Canadian annals as a memorable one, for by the action of this parliament were severed the last strands which moored the Canadian ship of state to the shore of Colonialism and kept it from sailing out upon the ocean of nationhood. This severing was the result of two measures—the act which abolished appeals to Britain's Privy Council, and the act which gave the federal parliament power to amend the constitution of Canada, the British North America Act.

Now that appeals from Canadian courts can no longer be carried to the British Privy Council, the Supreme Court of Canada is the highest Court in the land. Besides making the Supreme Court the court of last resort, the new act also provided that the Court should be enlarged to nine members, to enable it to carry out its new functions with the maximum efficiency. There was, on the whole, relatively little opposition to this judicial measure, for most Canadians were convinced that we should not use British courts.

On the other hand, the Government's proposal regarding the amendment of our constitution stirred up heated controversy. There was no difference of opinion as to the desirability of our having the power to amend the constitution, but differences did exist as to the method of procedure. Specifically the government sought the power to amend the British North America Act "except as regards matters coming within the classes of subjects by this Act assigned exclusively to the legislatures of the provinces, or as regards rights or privileges by this or any other constitutional act granted or secured to the legislature of a province, or to any class of persons with respect to schools or as regards the use of the English or the French language." The Opposition and three of the provinces claimed that the Dominion had no right to pass such an amendment to the British North America Act without first consulting the provinces. They were just as much in favor of the measure as was the Government, but they felt that the rights of the provinces were being trampled upon. The Government was, however, upon safe ground. The B.N.A. Act had been amended eleven times previously, and in only three cases were the provinces consulted. In the other eight cases, federal matters alone were in issue, and the provinces were not consulted. Therefore, there was no reason why the provinces should be asked to approve the latest amendment, which dealt only with federal matters.

What those who claimed that the provinces must be consulted appear to have overlooked, is the fact that the new amendment actually guarantees the provinces their rights. In the past the Dominion Parliament had the power to change any part of the Constitution, even that part relating to provincial matters, by means of a joint address of both Houses to the British parliament at Westminster. Furthermore, the federal parliament could even have abolished French as an official language, had it so desired. Now the Dominion no longer has this power insofar as the provinces are concerned. It is hoped that during the Dominion-provincial Conference on constitutional matters beginning in Ottawa on January 10th, the provinces will come to some agreement on how to amend the portions of the constitution which deal with provincial powers. However, regardless of the outcome of this conference provincial rights have been safeguarded by the new legislation.

The sections of the British North America Act which are concerned with the powers of the provinces are section 91 and 92. It is, however, recognized that the provinces have some interests not specifically stated in these sections, and eventually it will rest

with the Supreme Court of Canada to define exactly what comes under federal jurisdiction and what under provincial jurisdiction. This should give the provinces no cause for alarm, as most of the powers are clearly set down.

There need be no fear that these new measures mark any loosing of our traditional ties with Great Britain. It is much more likely to have the opposite effect of bringing our nations closer together, inasmuch as the British have since 1931 repeatedly been irked at having to pass amendments requested by the Canadian parliament. We have had the power since the Statute of Westminster (1931) to amend our constitution, and we are the last member of the Commonwealth to take advantage of it. Canada has taken a great step forward, and it will be applauded by the British as well as by the Canadian people.

—MARK MacGUIGAN '51

THE BETRAYAL

The clang of arms, the steady beat of feet;
A pressing throng upon an unpaved street.
Sounds of hate-filled voices, the soldiers' glee;
The whispering, impatient cry: "Which one is He?"

"Hail, Rabbi,"—an agonized, blood-streaked face;
A guilty kiss, a seeming-fond embrace.
This was the sign. What need to hesitate?
And binding Him, they led, half-dragged Him out the gate.

The deed was done: the thirty drachmas gained.
A purse was filled, a worldly goal attained.
The deed was done: but at what dreadful cost!
An unrepented crime, a soul forever lost!

—L. O'HANLEY '51

THE UNIVERSITY NAVAL TRAINING DIVISION

The Royal Canadian Navy is acquiring a tradition similar to the famous tradition of the Royal Navy. During World War II