

that Pizarro and a few hundred adventurers were able to strike terror into the hearts of the Peruvians and hand over their treasure and their territory to the throne of Spain. Then comes the period of maturity, when men and nations enter upon full manhood, and take upon themselves the responsibilities and the duties of self-government. As in the case of a ship, which has let go her moorings in the roadstead, if taut and staunch in hull and spar, and under control of a skilful master, the crew may laugh at what others deem danger and set sail oceanward in every hope of a prosperous voyage. But if the vessel be crank and fragile, and have to contend not only against wind and wave, but a pilot's incapacity, then better were it by far that she should hug fast her moorings than run the risk of being dashed upon the shoals.

It would seem then, that as surely as every step taken by man in his advance from childhood to maturity tends to prepare him for ultimate self-government; so every great movement; whether social, religious or political, which has engaged the attention of mankind since the Middle Ages, has directly or indirectly given fresh force or energy to those principles whose ultimate development is Democracy. To quote the words of De Toqueville, 'The Book "of the Prince is closed forever as a State Manual, and the Book of the people, "a book perhaps of darker sophistries and more pressing tyranny, is as yet unwritten." This tendency in the direction of Democracy is the most uniform, the most ancient, the most permanent and the most irresistible tendency, which is to be found in history, and no discussion bearing upon the proper functions of Governments, or the relative values of Constitutional usages, can be had without weighing its probable results upon the present and the coming ages. It has vanquished kings, destroyed feudal tenures, and planted its heel on the necks of aristocracies, and at this moment capitalists are timidly enquiring who is to be the next victim of its malice. The torrent has been gathering force age after age for centuries. It is impossible that it can now be stayed. *Is it impossible that it may be guided?* The answer to this question no nation ever had a better opportunity of solving and of earning thereby an enduring place in history than Canada.

A metaphor will sometimes convey an impression, which a page of logical sequences would utterly fail to produce. I shall venture to employ one here—Prescott, the historian, tells us that when the Spaniards first landed upon the Peruvian coasts, they gazed with an awe-stricken admiration upon the mountain slopes of the Andes, whose precipitous sides were clothed with luxuriant and cultivated verdure, while terrace upon terrace dotted over with comfortable villas rose upwards almost to the mountain peaks. They wondered at the fertility of the usually barren hillsides; but on enquiry they learned what progress this wonderful but isolated people had made in the science of husbandry, under the tuition of their Incas. High up on the mountains they were informed there were hugh lakes, formed partly by the melting snows and partly from natural springs. These reservoirs were tapped by the people and their waters led through miles of aqueducts built of solid and substantial masonry and thence distributed through a thousand minor irrigating streams, to refresh the thirsty lands below. It were easy to imagine with what destructive force these waters would have plunged down the mountain slopes, when swollen by the heavy rains which are common to all tropical lands; how the habitations of man would have been swept ruthlessly away, and the scanty soil washed down to the plateau beneath, but for the power which Art thus gave them to turn those otherwise destructive agents to a beneficial use. Now it is hardly necessary to interpret the picture. We are in the presence of a power, as potent, and if not judi-