

Your Excellency's stay in our midst, that your term of office may be yet another period of progress for the Dominion and of happiness and satisfaction to yourself.

January 3, 1905.

EARL GREY'S REPLY.

HIS EXCELLENCY SAID:

I thank you for your generous reference to the public services of my ancestors, and also for the implied reminder that the honour of distinguished ancestry is only of value when it incites the living generation to emulate, so far as it in them lies, the bright example they have inherited.

I rejoice with you in the prosperity of the Dominion, and in the happy unity with which all races and creeds are advancing along the path leading to the development of your noble heritage. I also congratulate you upon the statement that the demands upon your funds have been comparatively light, and would respectfully offer the suggestion for your consideration that you should add to your objects some work which will appeal to the spirit of patriotism, and by so doing increase the stream of your subscriptions. The Province of Ontario, is honourably distinguished for having been the first province of the British Empire to set aside as a day of national celebration the birthday of our late Sovereign, Queen Victoria. Owing to the initiative of this Province that anniversary before long will be celebrated in every school of the Empire, as a day on which shall be reverently remembered the heroic deeds and noble aspirations of our race. If I am not trespassing on ground on which I have no right to tread, may I respectfully suggest that you should consider whether it would not be desirable, with the object of encouraging and strengthening the spirit of patriotism, and the cultivation of the sentiments of duty, self-sacrifice and truth, to present to every school within the area of your administration a banner of St. George, so that on every successive St. George's day the chivalry, loyalty and knighthood associated with that name should be impressed upon the minds and hearts of your children.