

ties. On its troubled bosom I have borne my part for the last quarter of a century, an humble instrument, yet honestly and sincerely devoted to that course which I held to be for the interests, the benefit, the honor, and the dignity of Canada, my native land. In attempting this I may, and no doubt have, occasionally erred, but they have been errors of the judgment, not of the will, as I have ever endeavored to base my efforts on truth. To brilliant talent in the way of sustaining the cause I advocated, I have never said claim, but rested on the justice of the principles which have formed the subject of comment. By this course, joined to the important and valuable selections which many highly gifted writers have enabled me to make, assisted by kind friends of patriotic feelings, much has been accomplished towards the regeneration of Canada since I first came before you in a public capacity.

"Important changes in our political position have taken place. When I first assumed the management of the Recorder we were then a population not coming up to 200,000. Now we number more than three times that number. Our liberty of speech and freedom of remark were limited—now we enjoy and exercise them to an extent not surpassed by any people on the globe. We were then under the domination of a political oligarchy. Now we enjoy a free government, based on responsibility to the people, and it affords me much satisfaction, in retiring from the position I have so long occupied, to reflect that the principles for which, with others, I have long contended are now on the vantage ground. Our contemporaries and successors in the cause have but to maintain their position, and Canada must go on and prosper. True, she is just now suffering from the vandalism of a lawless mob and the efforts of wily demagogues, who are laboring to destroy her liberties and her fair fame. Yet, by steady perseverance, she will rise above these. Correct principles of government may be abused, but when once known and felt cannot be eradicated from the minds of a progressive population like ours. The natural capabilities of Canada are such that although her onward progress may be impeded it cannot be destroyed. She will rise in spite of every obstacle thrown in her

way by the selfish, the unscrupulous and the evil disposed.

"The step I now take is not of the hasty kind. I have cherished the intention of withdrawing from the position I have so long occupied, so soon as I could place the Recorder in other and more able hands, ready and willing to maintain the rights of the people on principles of responsibility. I think I have succeeded in this, and that in future its columns will exhibit more spirit and animation, from the infusion of younger blood, spurred on by that laudable ambition to excel, which is more to be expected from men who are looking forward with hope to a succession of prosperous years than from one like myself, far on the downward hill of life. I therefore confidently recommend the gentlemen who from this day become the proprietors of the Recorder, to the kind consideration of those who have hitherto given me fair support, and I trust that they will not be found unworthy of the confidence which my political friends have hitherto so freely bestowed on me.

"I cannot close these remarks without acknowledging the many favors received from my fellow laborers. To my brethren of the press, I am under many obligations for the kindness which, with few exceptions, I have uniformly received, and for which they have my most hearty thanks. I have differed with many of them on political matters, and have endeavored to confine myself to these, unless provoked by unscrupulous and unfeeling remarks of a personal nature to myself and friends. These exceptions are, however, few, and in retiring I wish all that prosperity which their views and their exertions may merit. I would not, however, have it understood that I in the least abate my desire for the prosperity of the principles I have advocated, and although assuming a different sphere of action, I shall always hold myself ready to discharge those duties which all owe to themselves and to their country.

"With these remarks I close, wishing you every happiness which the world can afford, and a future and more glorious existence beyond the reach of that turmoil and strife with which we have had, more or less, to contend.

William Buell."

Brockville, June 23, 1849.