

who thought deeply and acted vigorously, and if they had fewer opportunities than we have, yet they made the most of what they possessed. Indeed, we must not forget that after all they had in some respects the same advantages as we have: they had the admirable teachings of Burke and Montesquieu, and the suggestive and inspiring examples of Pym, Hampden, and Russell, of all the fathers of parliamentary government in the parent state. The majority of the people, certainly in Canada, have understood the principles of British liberty, and were always faithful to them, while at the same time they recognized their obligations to the Empire, and remained faithful to the Crown at times when their patience was sorely tried, and their fortunes seemed at the lowest. The point which I should like to make here is this: that we can learn much from the examples of the men who have preceded us, in studying the social and political development of Canada. We should do well to emulate their patience and perseverance amid what seemed at times insurmountable obstacles, as well as their insight into the safest maxims on which to rest civil liberty and local government.

Let me here utter a warning against mere shallowness. To master one good work at a time, to be able to understand its teachings, and apply them to the conditions of the present and to the exigency that may arise at any moment, should be the aim of every student of Political Science. The tendency in some universities as in the public schools, I am inclined to think, is to overburden the student with work, instead of giving him opportunities for devoting himself to those particular studies for which his inclinations and abilities fit him. I do not know that it is best for a country like this to have too many superficial Crichtons. I should therefore hope that all persons who wish to take up a course of Political Science in addition to those studies which are necessary for mental discipline and to fit them for their respective vocations, will not look upon it as a mere pastime, as quite subsidiary to other things, but will bring to it the perseverance, diligence and interest which will enable them to master its true teachings and make it an invaluable aid to them in the practical pursuits of their lives.

In no department of study is there more danger of being deceived and carried away by dangerous theories and delusive ideas than that which leads us to consider political, social and economic problems. In attempting to lay deep and firm the foundations of government and society in the Dominion—for remember we are at the basis as yet of our national structure—our rulers and thinkers must carefully study the systems of other countries, for there is always much to learn from them; and by no other country are we likely to be more influenced by reason of language and origin and neighborhood than by the remarkable nation alongside of Canada; but we must be careful not to be deluded by the glamour of republicanism or the social tendencies of purely democratic conditions, and to level those old landmarks which can best lead us in the direction of true social happiness and national greatness. It is well to have conservative tendencies—I mean “conservative” in the true sense and not in the elastic political meaning of the word—and not adopt new ideas and opinions simply because they are new. Let us, above all, remember that the Social and Political Sciences are inseparably allied, that the laws of the one influence the laws of the other; and that laxity of morals in society must tend to lower the political conditions of a country. We see in the neighboring United States the danger that is threatening the social fabric from the lax principles that prevail on the subject of marriage ties. This unhappy laxity must and indeed does sap the foundations