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THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Executive Committee in their Programme of to-day's proceedings, have announced that an *Oration* will be delivered to-day, in commemoration of the one hundred and thirteenth anniversary of the settlement of Halifax.

None of us, who have not been in the neighboring republic, have ever heard any address bearing so formidable and imposing a name. You must all be aware that orations are not in vogue among Englishmen, and are chiefly confined to the literature and history of classical antiquity, or to the productions of our neighbours the Americans.

Among the Greeks and Romans, rhetoric exercised a power and assumed a position denied to it by us in this matter-of-fact age. It was a different atmosphere that men then breathed. When we read their history, we fancy that we are almost studying the acts and thoughts of a different and extinct species of our race.

The haze of poetry that seemed to envelope even the actions of every-day life, gives them a peculiar charm to the student, who turns now from the prosaic world around him to the glories and the struggles of those distant ages, which have been perpetuated and will ever survive in the memory of men.

Among the Americans, though their orations often excite our admiration by their eloquence, they seem exotics. But among the Greeks and Romans, however elevated their tone, they appear to be perfectly in keeping with the genius of those nations, and to be the natural productions of the spirit of those ages. Though delivered thousands of years ago, they still appeal to the hearts of readers even in this commonplace, utilitarian nineteenth century.

Who is there that does not, even now, feel his blood course more warmly through his veins, as he reads the magnificent funeral oration delivered by Pericles over the dead of Marathon—the language of which, if applied to even the greatest struggles of modern times, would