

extensive, and in the great central provinces they exist in forms so easily accessible that the furnace room may have its supply of coal at its very door. Measurements and statistics are useless here; in all those natural resources that have formed the foundation for material prosperity Canada stands in the front of the nations. Here are fields waiting but the tickle of the agriculturist's machinery to blossom into harvests sufficient to fill the granaries of the world; here are forests waving their invitations to woodmen, to find in them ready material for easy settlement and thereafter the source of a world wide commerce; here are mines ready to satisfy the hungry maw of the furnaces of the Empire, to supply material for the world's fleets, and to fill with their glittering contents the vaults of many mints and banking houses; while in the rapids and rioting waterfalls which the country's rugged formation has brought into existence, on a thousand streams, is unlimited power waiting but to be harnessed to drive ten thousand factories and light the streets of our towns from Halifax to Dawson City. Do you say these are but evidences of material wealth but they mean nothing to the Church? I protest they mean much. Not with the pride alone of a Canadian do I speak, but with the ardor of a Christian, believing in the purpose of God for our land as truly indicated in nature as in grace. A population of six millions scattered over this vast territory seems insignificant, but you ask me to lay aside my belief in the eternal Intelligence that is behind creation, when you asked me to dream that God watered the ridges of our land so richly, simply to leave them untenanted, save by the red-man, the grizzly and the buffalo. As truly as Henry Clay,

from a jutting crag of the Alleghanies, looking across the valley of the Ohio to where the prairies stretched as yet all desolate, heard "the thunder tread of the coming millions who are marching over mountains to possess these prairie lands, away and away to the setting sun," so for Canada do I hear

"the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be,  
The first low wash of waves, where soon  
Shall roll a human sea."

And when I realize that already the outposts are occupied and the strategic points secured, that villages already stand where cities are to be, that thousands are scattered where millions are to congregate, I realize that for the Church in her work for Canada "*now is the nick of time.*" If it is true that as the foundation is laid the superstructure is to stand, that as the child is the man will be, then is it true that Canadian life and character are receiving now the stamp and impress they are to bear for generations to come, and in this aspect of Home Mission Work its importance is beyond the power of words to describe. I know that other work clamors at your doors and ours, work pressing and important, but none more important than this. Canada is to have a place among the dominant nations of the world, a large place some of us are bold enough to think, and with that in view there is room for a spiritual strategy in the toil and effort for the furtherance of the Kingdom of Christ. It is better to save the nation that is to be dominant than the nation that is dying; happy the Church that has the strength to do both, happy the Church that if either must be neglected has the wisdom to choose the more important and pressing.

Canadian Home Mission Work is