

—when these mean an expensive army and navy or a still more expensive pension fund. Some of us are not half as sorry as we should be that we have no share in paying the bill.

“You have been accustomed to think of yourselves as a young nation, but, compared to baby Canada, think how old you are. Judging by the looks of a good many, I should say that you must be at least ‘sweet sixteen.’ (Laughter.) Our birthday was the 1st of July, 1867, yours the 4th of July, 1776. When you were born as a nation, 115 years ago, during a little unpleasantness with your mother, you were thirteen colonies; you numbered in all 3,000,000 of the best British stock; you had experienced, too, more than a century’s conflict with savage wilderness, still more savage Indians and disciplined regiments from France. What was the condition of Canada then? With the exception of a handful here and there on the coast of Nova Scotia, there was not an English-speaking community in any one of the seven provinces and five territories that now constitute the Dominion. This great province of Ontario was covered with unbroken forest. Even the city of Toronto was not in existence. Our population consisted of sixty or seventy thousand habitants along the St. Lawrence. No wonder that French-speaking Canadians are still an important element with us. You are more than a century older than Canada, you see and you must, therefore, make allowances and not show more contempt for us than a lad of sixteen usually does for a boy of six—or for his grandmother. I think you will take to us, for we are wonderfully like you in some respects. For instance, nothing pleases us as much as washing our dirty linen, both municipal and federal, in public. When a particularly dirty bit

is dragged to light, it is greeted with yells of exultation. Since I have referred to this point of likeness between us, you will excuse me if I add that our virtue is conspicuous not only in sabbath-keeping but in exposing corruption. I understand that you leave it to the Democrats to tell on the Republicans and to the Republicans to expose the Democrats. You have received in advance the greatest compliment that one country could pay to another. Should the people of Canada visit the States in July, I doubt if congress would pay them the compliment of adjourning on Canada’s national day and making up for it by listening to tedious speeches and doing what they call business on the 4th of July. But that is what our Parliament did this year, in your honour, no doubt, for if that was not the reason nobody knows what was. When you go home again, give this as a proof that we are the most courteous people under the sun. That is one of the advantages we get from having so many French in Canada, for Frenchmen are always polite. I am told that to-day I represent not only the Dominion but specially the universities and so the managers of this meeting have paid you the compliment of soliciting a schoolmaster to represent Canada.

“That, I may mention, is my business as well as yours, for, as Carlyle points out, what is a university but a school? In the common schools pupils learn to read in their own language; in the university they learn to read in all languages, to read the human mind, to read the inspired volumes of nature and almost undecipherable tomes of universal history.

“As a comrade, I bid you a hearty welcome. I say magnify your office. Twenty years before the revolutionary war broke out John Adams taught school in Lancaster, and long before