

There were half of the people who prophesied that it would not work. There will be more than half of the people who will prophesy against this. No matter about politicians, what their ideas are; God wished us to federate, and He forced us into it; and when He wants the next federation brought about in connection with the British Empire, He will force us into that. We have the language, we have equality, we have destroyed the colored lines, we are free as a people can be; and with the freewill that governs us as individuals as well as a nation, we are ready to take in all the world. Our symbolisms are significant. The grand old lion of the forest is the mightiest of the beasts, and he must conquer in all the wild land. The oak, in its sturdiness and strength, was well chosen for this great empire, that must stand the storms of ages, and live when other trees have fallen; and the rose, which is universal in its nature, and can grow in any clime, is a fit symbol of the grander growth of this empire; and the cross—all hallowed be its memory—that speaks goodwill to men on earth, and wishes them to be in harmony with Heaven, is another.

Canada has a fair field, a grand future. Let us work in harmony with Providence, and we shall be successful if we do. I know of no country that can excel the real Canadians to-day—I speak without any reflection on any other nationality—I would not reflect upon my native born land; still, I love my adopted home, and I think that Canadians are the best physical specimens, intellectual specimens, moral specimens, and the best religious people, taken as a whole, on the face of the earth, and they have the best opportunities of any people that I know of; and if I were a young man in search of a country and home, I would choose this country in preference to any other.

Young men, first be true and loyal to Christ, and then true and loyal to your country. True love to Him will give permanence and prosperity to the land. As Lowell says in his beautiful poem:

“For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears along,  
Round the earth's electric circle, the swift flash of right or wrong;  
Whether conscious or unconscious, yet humanity's vast frame,  
Through its ocean-sundered fibres feels the gush of joy or pain.  
In the gain or loss of one race, all have equal loss or gain.”

Let it be ours to be true to the instincts of nature, and let us be free to allow to all others the unalienable right of judgment and a free conscience. God bless every one.