

rich. Would I be stretching the truth if I should say that they are the richest in the world? I can readily understand how a Frenchman, for example, would dispute that proposition, but I think I could hold my ground against him. Consider the number of centuries over which the British story stretches. Consider the extent of the British empire and how portions of it are found all round the earth. Think, for example, of the East Indian portion of that empire. Then, for fruitful periods of history, contemplate the Elizabethan age or the Victorian age. Or, if we come to special departments, in what department is Great Britain not great? See how the cause of freedom has advanced there from the days of Magna Charta until now. Or study the social progress of the last fifty years. Of warriors, statesmen, explorers, discoverers, I need scarcely speak. But in this connection consider the history, for example, of British rule in India. I am well aware that here are to be found some most shameful pages; but I am also aware that here are to be found names and deeds, of not a few of which a Briton may well boast. Not to mention others, think of Lord Lawrence, the *Bayard* of Indian statesmanship, *sans peur et sans reproche*. I commend his biography to young Canadians. If they can read it without inspiration of the highest kind I am mistaken. Or, leaving India, come to Africa, and here the British traditions offer you such a story as that of David Livingstone. If you have not read his "Personal Life," by Wm. G. Blaikie, get it at once, and when you have read it you will never get over its influence, and if there is a drop of Scotch blood in your veins you will be prouder of it than ever. And let me not pass on without naming General (Chinese) Gordon. Read his *Life* as found in the *English Men of Action* series, and again you will find yourself puzzling over the question as to how, in this strange world, souls of such nobleness are ever produced.

But I must go on. Think a survey of English literature from Chaucer down to Robert Browning, and where else in the world will you match it? Nowhere, as I believe. And to the inheritance of this, in a peculiar sense, young Canadians, if they will have it so, are born.

Of many other things I must say nothing. But of religion I must say a word. Take the annals of the English and Scottish pulpits; take the names from those annals, which are household