

for me to mention that the Sovereign in French-speaking Canada and her representative to this day exercise special privileges in relation to certain institutions. These come to them from the French kings, through the French governors. They were transferred voluntarily and graciously at the time of the conquest to British governors. Ever since they have been exercised as a precious right. The Sovereign in England has no such rights; but our Canadian Queen holds them in Canada, and it was my privilege last autumn, during my residence in Quebec, to exercise them in her name.

But apart from quaint and pleasant customs, what does the maintenance of the Crown and of all that it stands for, mean in Canada? First, it means the combination of law and of liberty which both come from the Crown, historically and actually. The Anglo-Saxon kings cherished law; the French-Norman monarchs, with their genius for administration handed out duties with a firm, a very firm, hand. With these duties, however, went power and authority which ultimately broadened into liberty with responsibility. It happened to be an American historian who coined a great phrase for the contribution of the Crown to English constitutional liberty, "self-government at the King's command". And it was a Frenchman who paid his tribute to England as "the only country to understand that political power has to be something more than a mere expression of common interest, that liberty and authority are not contradictory terms, that liberty can be enjoyed without disorder, and that authority can be exercised without tyranny". These are the words of André Siegfried, who strives here to express what he deems a typically English contribution to western civilization. He does not oppose it to, but he does distinguish it from, the equally important American contribution to the ideals of human dignity, human equality, and human well-being in a material sense.

And this is the matter that I would emphasize. We, in Canada, admire American ideals, and so far as lies in our power, we strive to emulate American achievements. But we do not forget that the institutions of Crown and Parliament, embodying in a symbolic fashion as well as in their practical operation, the ideals of liberty and authority are, on this continent, peculiarly ours. It is we who have cherished and preserved them in the New World. It is we who can offer them in our Canadian translation, as our contribution to civilized life on this continent.

I should like, in this Coronation year, to say something of the particular role of the Crown in modern times. It will be my duty and privilege to speak particularly to the nation on this matter on the occasion of the Coronation. But this need not prevent me from saying here, in these friendly and sympathetic surroundings, some of the things that are, I know, in all our minds and hearts. As I have suggested, liberty and authority in the best British and Canadian tradition are symbolized in the Crown and personified in its wearer. I need not say how happy and fortunate we are in our present Sovereign, as we were happy in her father and her grandfather, to speak only of recent times. We have seen in them persons capable of combining the splendour of authority, and the dignity of freedom, with the warmth and friendliness which expresses a common bond of humanity. This does not conflict with the principle of equality which we are proud to maintain. It does, however, give to our society of free and equal citizens at once a bond and a symbol. It recalls to us not only our common ideals; not only the necessity of human justice, but the blessings of human mercy and of human love.