

other blessing in this world. She strives and prays for it with all the intensity of her past anguish.

Listen to the peroration of the admirable speech of Mr. Gaston Vidal, Under-Secretary of State for Technical Education, in welcoming the Mission at Vichy. These words have the true ring of the soul of France:

A fortnight ago, I saw them again, those soldiers—or rather those who had survived—at the inauguration of a monument erected to the memory of their dead. There were two hundred names, and at the foot stood an old Chasseur who answered "Died for France" at the call of each name. Then, once—five times the name of Fraisse was called. We felt the grief that filled his eyes with tears and choked his utterance. He could not go on. It was the name of his five brothers. Say, when you return to Canada, that a nation that has suffered this is not militaristic. It has suffered too much from war. It has suffered in its flesh; it has borne too many of its pitiful wrecks of humanity through its hospitals; it has too often felt the agony of the surgeon's knife sunk into its bruised flesh; it has breathed too much the acrid odour of chloroform. But tell them also that, in spite of all, France has

too deep a sense of right and justice to permit this iniquity. A victorious nation that has signed in blood the names of its 1,600,000 dead, and along whose country roads are trailed the long veils of its widows (who have nothing of the warlike spirit of the Valkyries)—say that that is France; that it is noble, grand; that it wishes to be respected always and everywhere and to pursue its course untrammelled, adhering to those noble traditions which are common to you and to us—the traditions of all who are present, of those who live in your country and those who live in ours—to whom I drink this toast.

The members of the Mission were treated like spoiled children in France, and practically at every stop were the recipients of souvenirs numerous, beautiful and useful. They desire fittingly to acknowledge these many kindnesses.

Personally, I feel that I must express my deep gratitude for the signal honour paid to me by the French Government, the city of Orleans, the Chamber of Commerce of Paris and the Société de Géographie de France.

MEIGHEE PAPERS, Series 2 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 09)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA