

We too have a share, and I think a great share, in those blessings which the hand of Nature has so richly showered on the peoples of the New World. Ours are the vast forests, ours are the mighty rivers, ours are the wealth of the mine, and above all, ours are the treasures of the soil. Our territory stretches in one almost unbroken extent of fertile land from the iron-bound coast of the stormy Atlantic to the balmy shores of the Peaceful Sea. We too are the heirs of all the ages, foremost in the files of time. We have in our veins the blood of the noblest nations of the Old World. We have as our birthright those free institutions and that untrammelled exercise of thought and religion for which our fathers fought and died. What then is to prevent us from becoming a great nation? Surely it is no vain dream, no fancy born merely of the wish, that deludes me when I look forward to the coming years, and see arise from out them a great nation—a nation which shall be the pride of her subjects, and the honour and glory of the country which gave her birth. With whom lies the great question whether Canada shall be a great country, taking her rank high up in the muster-roll of the nations, or shall never rise beyond the condition of a third or fourth-rate Power? Is it not with her own sons and daughters? With *them* lies the future of their country. Nature has done all she can for us. The Old World sends to our shores year by year fresh supplies of men to till our fields and work our mines. We, the people of Canada, hold her destiny in our own hand.

What is wanted in Canada is more true and pure patriotism—more of that spirit of which England's greatest historian speaks when he says:

"Then none was for a party,
Then all were for the State,
Then the great man helped the poor,
And the poor man loved the great;
Then lands were fairly portioned,
Then spoils were fairly sold,
Then Romans were like brothers,
In the brave days of old."

We want more union of all nationalities, all creeds, and all sections, on the grand and comprehensive basis of a common love for our country and a common earnestness of national purpose. Let us lay deep and strong the foundations of that national edifice of which we are and must be the architects, whether for good or evil, for failure or success.

Let us lay as our chief corner-stone that pure religion, that open Bible, which is our most precious inheritance from the generations of the past. Let us develop carefully and thoroughly our educational institutions, so that as our people grow in wealth, they shall grow in knowledge and in power. Again, let us pay more and more attention to the cultivation of the soil. It was said by an envious Emperor that England was a nation of shopkeepers. Let it be Canada's proudest boast that she is a nation of farmers. She must be that or nothing. As I have endeavoured to point out to you, it is to a great agricultural future that her natural features point; and if we as a nation tread not in the path pointed out to us by the hand of Nature, we cannot hope to reach to greatness. And here let me say a few words of a spirit I have observed among the young men of some of the older provinces, which does not augur well for the future of the country. What I refer to is that tendency to forsake the farm, as something degrading, something menial, and to rush to the towns and cities and there to seek employment, perhaps as clerks or bookkeepers, or in some other occupation which can only render them a mere subsistence in return for constant labour. They do this because they think that their occupations are a little more stylish, and confer better social position than working on a farm. This, I need hardly say, is a great mistake. There is no more honourable, no more thoroughly independent life, than that of the farmer. If a young man should obtain a little more learning, or get a little wider knowledge of the world than his fellows, let him turn it all back again upon the farm, and the soil will richly reward the skilled labour he may bestow on it. And here, with these words of hope and trust for the future of our common country, let me draw my lecture to a close; only adding that in all I have said in regard to the future of Canada, I would not seek in the slightest degree to loosen, but rather to draw yet closer, the golden link of reverence and of love which binds us to the motherland. Because a son strives to make his mark in the world by talents and virtues that are all his own, it surely needs not that he should abate aught of that affection and respect which is due from child to parent. And so because we would wish and hope to see our own country shine with a lustre not merely reflect-