

BY OUR DISAGREEMENTS AT HOME. WE HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE P.Q. THAN TO THE G.N.P. I BELIEVE THAT IS BEHIND US NOW, AND THAT WE HAVE MOVED QUIETLY INTO A NEW MATURITY AS A NATION. PART OF THAT HAS TO DO WITH A SENSE OF EQUALITY IN OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES. THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC EVOLUTION OF SELF-CONFIDENCE IN QUEBEC AND, FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, IN MY REGION OF WESTERN CANADA, AND THAT IS BOUND TO INFLUENCE CANADIANS AS A WHOLE. BUT QUITE APART FROM OUR GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES, THESE LAST FEW DECADES HAVE SEEN A BURST IN CANADIAN ACCOMPLISHMENT - LITERATURE, SCIENCE, INVESTMENT, INVENTION, PAINTING, SPORT. HERE IN BRITAIN, A COUNTRY WHICH HAS PRODUCED SO MUCH OF THE WORLD'S GREAT LITERATURE, THERE ARE NOW UNIVERSITY COURSES DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE STUDY OF CANADIAN WRITERS. THIS YEAR AT LEEDS, JON KIMURA PARKER, A GIFTED YOUNG CANADIAN, WON THE INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION, ONE OF THE WORLD'S PRE-EMINENT COMPETITIONS.

I ARGUE THAT CONFIDENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT NOURISH ONE ANOTHER AND THAT CANADIANS ARE MUCH MORE SURE OF OURSELVES THAN WE HAVE BEEN BEFORE. THE MODERN PURPOSE OF CANADIAN NATIONALISM IS TO EXPRESS OURSELVES, NOT TO PROTECT OURSELVES, AND THAT SENSE OF MATURITY IS AT THE ROOT OF THE NEW DIRECTIONS THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED.