

This is the infant hour, or if you will the childhood of our country ; and it is, if not for you and I, at all events for the race among whom we live, and to whom our public declarations are addressed, to say what shall be her future progress—what resources shall be placed within her reach—what rules laid down for her guidance—what opinions and determinations indelibly impressed upon her mind.

Shall we then neglect this high duty, which we owe alike to the hardy pioneers by whom the Province was conquered and explored, and who have done so much for us ; and to those generations that must come after, and to whose feet our knowledge and virtues should be as a lamp, and over whose destiny, whether for good or evil, we have such extensive control ? Shall we lie down in idleness and doubt, because we are but a handful of men, and because our country might be almost hidden in some of the Canadian Lakes ? Shall we foreswear all mental competition, because other countries are larger and more advanced ? Shall we aspire to no national character—no combined influence—no honorable report ? Shall we turn recreant to the blood and example of those glorious Islands, from which we derive our language and our name ? Shall we forget the obscurity of their origin—the vicissitudes of their history, and the obstacles which *their* children and *our* fathers triumphed over and controlled ? Or shall we, upon a Continent peopled by their descendants, sell our birthright for the pottage of timidity and sloth ? Shall we teach our children to seek excuses for idleness and irresolution, in the narrow dimensions of their country—and to tacitly yield to a Canadian or Virginian superiority in all things, because he chanced to inherit a more fertile soil, and can reckon a million who bear his name ?

The doubt that we could not do otherwise, has often painfully oppressed my mind ; but I have taught myself to hope, to reason, and resolve, and I am satisfied that we may, if we choose, tread a far higher path than that to which it would, at a