

the men from different parts of the country as well as in the trade which has been developed between the different provinces, and we are proud to meet our friends from the east as we know they are always happy to meet us from the west. The only regret or jealousy we have is that we have not the honour of adding their names to the brilliant roll of those honoured names of whom the great Province of Ontario boasts. If the leader of the Opposition in the late election had visited, as was promised, the east riding of the County of Hastings, although he would have found the overwhelming majority of the people of that riding opposed to his policy and regretting that his great abilities, his persuasive eloquence and his magnetic personality were not employed in the interests of what we consider the true National Policy, still we would have extended to him a greeting worthy of the distinguished leader of a great political party—a welcome fitting to be extended to and received by so illustrious a representative of one great branch of our national tree. Thus we find, that during the past twenty-five years, cloud after cloud has rolled away. But at the beginning of this epoch there was another cloud to which I will refer, and many men believed it was one of the factors that would tend to the dismemberment of this country. Many members of this House will remember the racial and religious cries that were then raised, and we were told by those who should not have spoken thus, that the racial difficulties which existed in this Dominion would prove an insuperable bar to the progress and harmony of the country. Those who thus spoke must have read but little history, or read it to little effect. If they had looked at the history of the mother land, they could have drawn lessons from it which would have been irrefutable answers to the arguments that were advanced. We know that in the mother land there are three countries under one flag and these three, England, Ireland and Scotland, united together, form the great and glorious Empire of Great Britain and Ireland, which all the world knows, all the world honours and all the world fears. Not to occupy the time of this House in recapitulating the history of these various countries, let me take one glance at the history of England. We find there, that causes and circumstances arose somewhat similar to those which existed in Canada: and we find, that as like causes will, under similar circumstances, produce like results, so the results which followed in the mother land we may fairly expect to follow in Canada. Sir, what is the lesson we can learn in this respect from the history of the mother land? We all know that in England we do not find one aboriginal race, descended from one primitive stock, untainted by intermixture with any other race; but we know that England has been successively overrun by various peoples. We know that when the Romans visited the shores of England nearly two thousand years ago they found two races there, a light-haired light-complexioned people, and a dark-haired and dark-complexioned people. We know that the Roman people settled in the country and mingled their blood with that of the native inhabitants. We know that after the Roman invasion, successive irruptions of Danes, Norwegians, Saxons and Jutes overran the country, each tribe pouring in its own blood and intermingling with the native races. We know, too, that 800 years ago an invasion took

place from the north of France under William, whose followers overthrew the Saxon people and mingled their blood with that of the inhabitants of England. Consequently we find that the people of England to-day possess the strength, the force, and the vigour of all these peoples who made these various irruptions into that country, and mingled the best and bravest elements of their characters with the stream of England's blood. We find that as England owes her maritime supremacy to-day to the blood poured into her veins by the old sea vikings centuries ago, so here in Canada like causes will produce like results, and we shall find in our own country that the very factor which it was supposed would make for its dismemberment will be one of the strongest guarantees of her prosperity and progress. We have here in Canada, not one original stock sprung from one race, but we have the refinement, the strength and vigour of the foremost races of the old world. We find in each race there are certain characteristics, certain features, which make it superior to all others in those respects, so that the dispassionate observer, whatever conclusion he may come to as to the comparative excellence of the various races, must admit that in many respects each has some peculiar excellence which the others do not possess. We have the loyal, brave and true Englishman, we have the long-headed, canny and shrewd Scotchman, we have the light-hearted, big-hearted, brave and eloquent Irishman, we have the steady, industrious, learned and law-abiding German, we have the gay, vivacious, religious and chivalrous Frenchman, all pouring their blood in one common stream to fill the veins and throb in the pulse of the people of Canada. So, Sir, we find that the very element which it was predicted would be a factor of dismemberment, and which seemed to many people a portentous cloud looming up on the horizon, which sooner or later would overwhelm this country, has become the strongest guarantee of our progress, permanence and stability. I think we must all agree that the second epoch of our national history begins with a brighter sky and under more favourable auspices than did the first epoch twenty-five years ago. But, Sir, while it is pleasant to dwell on the prosperity of Canada, we are reminded that not only in this country but on the other side of the water, both peoples have received a solemn warning, another melancholy intimation, of the uncertainty of life and the mortality of man. That grim spectre, Death, that summons every man sooner or later, and whose summons, when received, all must obey, that knocks impartially at the castles of the rich and the cottages of the poor, has entered the home of the Royal family of England, the most exalted in the mother land, and has summoned thence the worthy son of an honoured sire, the grandson in the direct line of succession, of our Gracious Sovereign.

“There is a reaper whose name is Death,
And with his sickle keen
He reaps the bearded grain at a breath
And the flowers that grow between.”

It is but a short time since the glad news was brought to this country that a marriage was arranged between our future Sovereign and a fair English Princess, and we all remember the pleasure which the news brought to the heart of every British subject. We remember, too, that that