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Speech by the Prime Minister of Canada,
The Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King,
at Princeton University, June 17, 1941

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr. President
I thank you for admitting me to the fellowship of
this renowned university.

I gratefully accept the distinction with which you
have endowed me. My fellow countrymen will be quick to
recognize it, as I do, as an honour meant for Canada. They
will see in it, as I, also do, an expression of your abiding
pleasure that our two countries, destined by divine Providence
to be neighbours, have for so many years lived together in
peace and understanding as friends.

That pleasure is abundantly shared by the citizens
of the Dominion. Between you and us there is a community of
thought, ideal, and purpose, by which it is ordained that we
shall forever walk together as the best of good neighbours. /

Although

"Heaven has shown us separate fires
And our dooms have dealt us differing years,"

Inspired by the same visions, we have sought the same ends.

As with other countries and other peoples, the inner
qualities of your nationhood and of our nationhood have not been
without their testing in the crucible of pain. With us, in bygone
years, there were the fires of racial and constitutional strife;
with you, the fires of revolution and civil war. We both have
participated in other wars. From victory, we each learned
magnanimity; from suffering, compassion.