

you for so readily assuming that no effort on my part will be wanting in assisting you to realize anticipations which are not less rational than inspiring.

The imagination is stirred by the eventful and picturesque story of your past, by the contemplation of your vast territories, by the mysterious and fascinating silence of the undeveloped North, by the varied richness of your boundless resources, by the charm and splendour of your scenery, and by the invigorating magnificence of your unrivalled climate.

But there is one treasure which you possess even more important than these great advantages which I have enumerated. This is the treasure of your national character. If you do not guard that sacred fire with zealous care, the material assets to which I have referred will be but as dross and crumbling clay. If, on the other hand, you keep, as your address informs me you will keep, the character of your people high, strenuous and imperial, no one can venture to set a limit to the influence which will be exercised one day by the people of Canada. The Canadian Nation is composed of the best elements drawn from England, Scotland, Ireland and France, and is destined to be a great and ever-increasing factor in an Empire numbering over four hundred million subjects; an Empire not only unique in material power and resources, but which we hold under God's providence to be a great and beneficial instrument for promoting the welfare and progress of mankind.

There is no reason, gentlemen, why the sons of Canada, if they are worthy of their fathers and of the country to which they belong, should not exercise a powerful, and in time to come, perhaps a controlling influence on the development and destiny of an Empire, whose standard is righteousness and whose path is duty.