

The Canadians of these early times were full of a well-founded pride. It arose from the vast natural advantages of their own country; from pride of descent, which gave them a reflected glory from all British renown; but, best of all, from pride of their own prowess and martial exploits in that ever green page of Canadian history, the year 1812. The Scottish Highlanders, especially, had brought from the old to the new wilds the loyal ardour, fervour and devotion which distinguished them wheresoever destiny drove them. The restlessness which urged them into forest recesses in quest of independence, their love of freedom and enterprise, their capacity for industry, all marked these Canadian pioneers as forces controlled by that spirit of democracy which impels civilization to seek new homes amid savage surroundings. They were not victims to that controlling power, local attachment, which made the Frenchman content on his two-acre lot, the sub-division coming to him like a "portion" in one of his native wine provinces.

Thanks to Mr. Pitt we then had our beginning, even if in the excess of his zeal he meditated the mistake of rewarding United Empire loyalism with the Dukedom of Niagara; for the belief was "Niagara must be considered the utmost limit westward capable of cultivation." In a word, the country had so far been considered only fit to produce peltries and pine masts.

This wish to recompense the losses sustained by those colonists who had so faithfully served the parent Government took active form in the inception of the Canada Company. Popular assemblies and ardent patriots are not always good judges of what will benefit industry. Works which promise the overcoming of vast obstacles and the connection of distant points arouse enthusiasm and are themes for oratory. The humbler work of detail, and the choice of men who understand it sufficiently to direct and judge of it when complete, are other affairs.

Here was an opportunity for the pamphleteer, for the company organizer, and one not neglected. The enthusiast,