

The shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie were settled by United Empire loyalists and others. They too were a sturdy race of men but, from the moral and religious standpoint, they also left much to be desired, and among them also the missionaries appeared. The Methodist itinerants early overran the Bay of Quinte and the Niagara districts. These pioneer missionaries, among whom was Nathan Bangs, were largely innocent of learning and of theology, but their very hearts were aflame with the love of God and of souls; and they with others of like mind laid the foundations of the moral and religious character of this province, which made it the premier province of the Dominion, and perhaps the most moral and religious, the most intelligent and progressive region of its size anywhere on the earth.

Long before settlement began to pour into the West there stood a man on the prairies, a prophet, a patriot, a great statesman, a missionary who foresaw the marvellous developments that were coming and who wisely prepared to meet them. Dr. Robertson staked out that great country, occupied its strategic points, early aroused his Church to its needs and opportunities and dotted the whole land with Presbyterian Churches and manses and thus enabled the Presbyterian Church of Canada to work its robust and manly spirit into the very fibre of our national life.

Every one feels that the native Indians of Canada have a special claim on us; for we have inherited this great country from them and we have deprived them of their livelihood and too often demoralized them with our whisky, our diseases, and our vices. Again it is the missionaries who have enabled us as a nation to discharge our debt to the Indian. They followed him within the Arctic circle and to the shores of the Arctic sea to give him the bread of life. And the result has been that the relations between the Indians and the Government of Canada have been relations of unbroken peace. Even in the two Riel rebellions the Christian Indians could not be induced to take up arms and join the rebels,