

Our Queen—Her Country.

[An address delivered by Wm. Weld at the Farmer's Picnic, Walkerton, June 2, published by special request.]

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—As you have honored me by an invitation to be present, and afforded me the opportunity and option of reading any selection, or of speaking before you on any subject I might choose, I select the above caption for my remarks. Up to the present time I have confined myself to agricultural topics when addressing public meetings; but regret to state that agricultural questions of the present time are so injuriously mixed up with partyism, that I find it impossible to speak to you with any force without either one or the other of the contending parties turning it into partizanship.

I will for the present leave agriculture alone, on this, your jubilee, our jubilee, and the Queen's jubilee, this being the month in which our beloved Queen attains the anniversary of the 50th year of her reign. Could our wishes be realized we would be glad to have her reign 50 years more. This wish would not be made from any personal favor we have ever received from her, or from her subordinates, more than any one of you has received. But her reign has been remarkable for the health, peace, power and prosperity of the nation; the extent of her territory has wonderfully increased, and the number of her subjects has more than quadrupled since she ascended the throne. At no time has England appeared to be in greater harmony with foreign nations than at the present time. No nation gives her subjects greater liberty of speech and action than Great Britain; but as soon as any parties assume too much, a small relaxation of the dogs of war, and all is soon tranquil. We too seldom look back to the past. Were we to do so more, it would tend to make us more satisfied with our lot. We know nothing about wars, famines or pestilences; we are living in a land flowing with milk and honey, and have been fed, so to speak, with quail and manna. In Ontario, the most favored Province of this Dominion, real want and poverty are unknown. Even the charitable work that is done in our cities by those who are termed paupers, is paid for at the rate of \$1.25 per day, and many of these people so employed own real estate, are well clad, well housed, well fed, as far as I have been able to ascertain in the city in which I reside, and I have made close enquiry and search to find the really deserving poor. Any weak, sickly woman, who will only make a pretence to work, will receive \$7 per month, and a good common cook will command a position in which she is better fed, has more handsome apartments, more jewelry and finer dresses, and enjoys more refinements of life than was the lot of some of the ancient queens of England; and they are infinitely happier than the wives of chiefs, emperors, governors, czars, etc., we have read of. See the handsome spring carriages and the fine horses with which you, the lords of creation, have brought your wives and families to this meeting. In no other land in the world, that we are aware of, could such a display of wealth, comfort and prosperity of the country be more vividly portrayed than here. You are all the owners of these equipages and the owners of the farms from which

you bring them; you have no dread of the sheriff or his staff. You do not think sufficiently of these blessings, nor are you half as grateful or thankful to the Great Giver for these bounties as you should be.

Despite all that her disparagers may say, our Queen is a noble, grand and exemplary woman, whom every true woman admires who has heard of her acts. She is revered and admired more than any other woman that exists or ever existed. An elderly lady, with gray ringlets, and plainly, but neatly, not grandly attired, whom we met at the Colonial, said "she had desired to see the Queen ever since her coronation, but could never gain a glimpse of her." She said, "She had loved her so much for her grand and noble acts, she would willingly die for her; she was the best queen that had ever sat on the throne." We coincided in these remarks, but to lead her on we asked in what respect had she shown her superiority. She replied: "You must be aware of what she has done to uphold the honor of woman, and what a powerful effect it must have." We weighed her remarks for some time, and came to the conclusion that she was not astray. We trust every legislator and every minister of the Gospel may take notice of the hints this lady threw out. If they have no proper honor or respect for the ladies, their places may not be worthily filled, for we must never forget that "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that moves the world." It is no easy matter for a person to have a good look at the Queen. We had a good opportunity of seeing her at the exhibition, as she entered the Canadian Court. We had been more used to shouting at logging bees or raisings than in the city, but feeling quite enthusiastic on this occasion, we raised a Canadian backwoods cheer. It may have been thought low or vulgar, but there is no halfway of doing things here. The effect was a graceful bend of acknowledgment from the Queen.

The Colonial on the whole was a grand success, and Canadian exhibitors elicited great praise for their exhibits. The most conspicuous were our fruits, cereals, the products of our forests, mines and workshops. In our agricultural implements, our display of fruits and cheese products, Canada took the lead. The Queen, the Prince of Wales, and many of the nobility made purchases from the Canadian exhibitions.

In wool and woolen goods, and wines, Australia far exceeded Canada. In silks, ivories, teas and beautiful artificer's work, India carried off the palm. New Zealand surpassed every exhibit in her supply of choice, fresh meat. Natal, Cape of Good Hope, and all her other dependencies were represented with varied products of all kinds.

The Colonial exhibited this feature, that Britain has the power within herself of supplying all the wants necessary for the maintenance and comfort of man without the aid or assistance of any other nationality. This may be termed monopoly, it may be termed aggrandisement; there may be cases of aggression, but where is there a nation that does not try to strengthen her position—and is it not necessary to do so? See the immense armies of the European and Asiatic nations, many of which are only waiting for an opportunity to draw their swords to gain more power. Our Queen now holds her power from the stability and security she gives to capital. Capital controls armies and

navies, and is thus enabled to feel secure from any menacing foe. Our Queen is a lover of peace, and a strong advocate for justice, and has acted with loving mercy towards the weak. It is during her reign that the shackles have been removed from the slave, and that all religious bodies have had an almost unlimited liberty. Could each of you take a trip to these beautiful isles composing Great Britain, and see the dense crowds assembled on any holiday, in any village, on the sea coast, or at all the gatherings, you would look with amazement and wonder where they all came from. Even in that one city, London, which contains more inhabitants than the whole of this Dominion, the buildings are being erected so rapidly in its suburbs that the scaffold poles are so numerous that they almost look like a forest. Go to her sea ports and see the streams of iron steamers constantly going and returning like floating bridges to all parts of the world; then leave these busy throngs and visit some of her numerous watering places, large, handsome towns, with their beautiful parks, and lawns, and walks, where thousands are daily sporting themselves with cricket, lawn tennis, shooting, or reading, boating, or listening to the choicest music on the beautiful and grand parades along or near the sea cities, where the manufacturer's hammer or the hum of machinery is not heard, where telephone or telegraph is not permitted to enter the houses, where the fragrance and sight of flowers and shrubs meet your view at every turn of the graceful, winding and tree-shaded roads, with neat hedges and smooth roads in the suburbs for drives, and roads where mouldering castles of our ancient brethren are within easy distance, and their ivy matted ruins are preserved from the despoiler's hand.

Yes, onward we pass till we stand on Iden's Height. Here, by the aid of a glass, we are enabled to see before us the rich grazing lands of Romany Marsh, lands that will fatten ten sheep to the acre, weighing between 300 and 400 pounds each, where 60,000 sheep are seen at one view, and which are claimed to be superior for the sweetness of their flesh to any of the large breeds so noted among us.

The beautiful herds of Susséx, Hereford, Jersey, Ayrshire, Alderney, Welsh and Polled-Angus are all to be met with as we pass through the country. Pictures of comfort, thrift and contentment in those beautifully watered, shaded and verdant pastures are exhibited, such as few other countries we have ever seen can show; innumerable sights of hop gardens, fruit orchards, and grain fields that raise 70 bushels of wheat per acre, are met with. Then pass to the ever-to-be-remembered Scotland, with its grand old historic accounts of its able men of war, art, science, industry and honor; to view the remains of these grand castles, monuments of fierce, hard and bitter times, call to our memories scenes of heroism and bravery. The beauties and fertility of the Emerald Isle; and the grandeur and fertility of Wales, with her frugal, industrious population, and neat and industrious cotters' homes, are beauties to be long remembered, beauties beyond my power of description, and almost beyond our conception. To honor the Queen of those Isles for 50 years is what every one of us should feel a pride in. When we read the old remarks of "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," and peruse history, which calls to remembrance the numerous kings, queens, rulers, emperors and even presidents that have been de-