

strongest as regards the formation of character. We are the children of our fathers. There is a sort of transmigration of souls. Elijah's mantle falls on Elisha.

Now, in any country the attention of the young is actually first called to that past which immediately concerns themselves: to the story of their own ancestors, to the history of their own nation. They have before them constantly the men, and the deeds, and the movements, which have made their national life, which adorn their national story, and with which they become almost as familiar, and which have almost as much to do in forming them, as was the case with the young Jew with respect to Abraham, and Moses, and David, and Elijah. Later on a wider survey is taken. One studies universal history: but at first the youth studies the history of his own people.

Now, in this important regard, however weak or strong the ties may be in other respects, Canada is a part of the great British nation, and the Canadian youth is the inheritor of all the glories of the British traditions. Illustrious British names are household words in well-regulated Canadian homes. The biographies read in these homes are nearly all of illustrious Britons. The general literature found in them has, for the most part, a British origin and flavor. The stories in Sunday school libraries are English, and Scotch, and Irish stories. The illustrations used in the pulpit, the examples held up for imitation, are very largely taken from British annals. In the public schools British history is taught, and the history of English literature, and in every way the young Canadian is made to feel that the British inheritance is his.

In the United States all this is changed. The break with Great Britain at the Revolutionary War was so great that to the American youth not a particle of British feeling remains: he feels no more sense of inheritance in the British traditions than in the French or German: England is no more to him than any other foreign country. Of course, later in life, if he be a cultivated man, he thinks and feels differently and often takes on a very intense regard for England and what is English. But what I have said is substantially true of the American youth. The influences under which he comes in his early years are those which are made upon him by the history and the leading names of his own country.

Now the fact is that the British traditions are marvellously