

fic. It arose from a cause deeper even than these eternal glories, from a profound belief that in this country we draw more freely and fully the breath of life, that we have escaped (and thanks to the effort of the former member from Kingston, seem destined yet to escape) that taint of caste which to the outsider seems to permeate and render unhealthy so much of the old world; that in Canada we recognize as the truest aristocracy that of character—I would one could declare it to be the sole aristocracy to which we bow, but the gross bulk of the plutocrat obtrudes—that here there is given to every man an opportunity to develop those powers with which the Creator may have endowed him, and that as we gaze into the sky of our future we find it glowing with the promise of a glorious day.

That belief of mine, is my excuse, if excuse be needed, for making an appeal to my fellow countrymen to unitedly stand guard over this splendid heritage. Let us prove ourselves worthy, not merely of these stately buildings and all they symbolize, not only of our sires the benefit of whose arduous labours we now enjoy but worthy even, if that be possible, of those brave souls

"Who ventured life and love and youth  
For the great prize of death in battle."

Too long have I, Mr. Speaker, presumed upon the patience of this House where words are our only currency and where, following universal law, an unlimited issue causes a corresponding decline in value. I would—however soon these worthless tokens of mine may disappear from the market of its memory—leave with it one message as a guide in the days to come; a message given literally from the deathbed of an outstanding Englishman, for he died a few days after its utterance, one who was a former Governor-General of this Dominion, and for whom might fittingly have been selected that joyous epitaph—"Glad did I live and gladly die and I lay me down with a will."

I am (perhaps too acutely) conscious that the simple and artless words used by the late Earl Grey will cause the cynic and worldly-wise—"those least erected spirits"—to scoff at them as better fitted for the pulpit or nursery, but I am among those who believe that the same ideals which govern our private lives should as well be the fixed stars to guide us in the rougher seas of politics, or, as Lowell has it "the real will never find an irremovable basis till it rests on the ideal." Here is the message; may it be graven on the hearts of all true citizens:—

[Mr. Cronyn.]

"We've got to give up quarrelling. We've got to come together.

We've got to realize that we are all members of the same family.

There's nothing that can help humanity, I'm perfectly sure there isn't, perfectly sure, except love! Love is the way out and the way up. That's my farewell to the world."

Mr. ALEXANDER MCGREGOR (Pictou): Mr. Speaker I have the unexpected honour of seconding the motion so eloquently spoken to by the honourable member for London (Mr. Cronyn). As honourable members of this House know, I am not ambitious to be classed among the speech makers, and having but a short experience in parliamentary life, I feel that I should crave the indulgence of my brother members while I endeavour to discharge the duty that is laid upon me.

I wish to say that I regard the honour as being intended more for the important constituency which I represent than for myself, in that sense I accept it, and on behalf of my constituents express sincere appreciation. It is a high compliment to them that I should be privileged at this the first session in our reconstructed, commodious, and beautiful chamber, to second the Address.

I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that every honourable member of this House sincerely deplores the absence of the Prime Minister, and also sincerely hopes that ere long he will be restored to his accustomed vigour. Men come, and men go in Parliament, as they do in other walks of life. Some leave light, some indelible impress of individuality and power. Sir Robert Borden is recognized as one of the really great men of Canada. He has been an outstanding figure in our wide flung Empire, a statesman of the highest rank in the world's estimation.

Naturally, some have differed with him on political questions, but no one ever challenged his honour, his profound sagacity, his political devotion, or his powerful influence. The enormous responsibilities of the past five years have evidently shaken his vigorous constitution, and to-day, he may well be regarded as a casualty of the great war.

The honourable member for London has so completely dealt with the legislation proposed in the speech from the Throne that little remains to which I might refer. He has gone very fully into the financial situation, and the successful financing of our war loans, which during the war, has meant so much to our agricultural, and industrial prosperity.