

"An Englishman in Canada"

(Text: Hebrews xii-1)

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Dear Old England! Where shall I begin? In London of course. And where in the vast city of London shall I begin? The traveller answers "In Westminster Abby." London is the heart of the world and the Abbey is the heart of the world's heart. Amid the noise and din of the vast metropolis I step into the Abbey and find the holy quiet and sweet peace of a thousand blessed memories. Let us stand in the Temple of Silence and listen to the eloquent voices of a thousand immortal inscriptions.

Oliver Goldsmith said to his companion, as they wandered through the Abbey: "Look ye, in that chair the kings of England were crowned." The ancient stone of Scone. The stone of destiny. The stone on which Jacob slept at Bethel, so tradition affirms. This stone rests embedded in the Coronation Chair. Here the kings of England have been crowned for eight hundred years. On this chair sat every English sovereign from Edward I to George V.

The dear old Abbey is the sepulchre of the kings. Here lie buried thirteen kings and five sovereign queens. Within these memorable walls kings and queens have been born, married, crowned and buried. Edward V was born in the Abbey and buried in the Abbey but never crowned. And now that kings are no longer buried here we linger amid corroding marble and undying monuments to spend a thought on the sorrows, tragedies, disappointments and heart-breaks of the imperial children of destiny who worshipped and wept as they wandered through nave, aisle and cloister.

The old Abbey is the national sanctuary of England. It stands alone among the great buildings of the world. In no other place will you find such a congestion of sacred dust. Three thousand of the great men of the earth lie buried here: musicians, artists, scientists, poets, statesmen, actors, soldiers, theologians, preachers and authors. Heroes, warriors, orators and the once popular idols in com-