

of ancient Greece and Rome? What absorbing passion animated the immortal Wallace to such deeds of heroic valor and self-sacrifice as he performed, that to the end of time his memory will be warmly cherished in the heart of every patriot? What noble enthusiasm led the British soldier-regiments not exclusively English, but composed alike of men from the rural districts of England, Ireland and Scotland, — to scale so gallantly the heights of Alma, and to rush into sanguinary but triumphant struggle at Inkerman? And we unhesitatingly reply, a far higher honour than that of gain. The fame of British valour and the integrity of the Empire, the future peace of Europe and the cause of liberty throughout the world, hung upon the issue. But in this utilitarian and wealth amassing age, at least in this region of the globe, "our swords" have been turned into "ploughshares" and our "spears" into "pruning hooks;" and in the great neighboring Republic and elsewhere we behold the spirit of nationality inflamed with a desire to excel in the arts of peace, rather than in those of war, and to attain commercial preminence, rather than military glory. May this great public virtue continue to manifest itself amongst us, stimulating the improvement of our agriculture, the increase of our manufactures, and the extension of our commerce, and imbuing all with an earnest concern for the country's material prosperity, until at last the motherland, old England, who, when the welfare of her people and the cause of humanity demanded it, led the nations of the earth in war, shall teach them "to learn war no more." "Zeal for the public good" says Addison, "is the character of a man of honour, and must take the place of pleasures, profits, and most other private ends. Whoever is wanting in this motive is an open enemy or inglorious neuter to his race in proportion to the misapplied advantages with which nature or fortune has blessed him."

In conclusion I would observe that it requires no argument to show that a region extending over several million square miles, and possessed, at almost every part, of so many natural advantages, is destined to become a great country. The question, then, What is to be the character of the population of this great country? is one that must come with thrilling interest to the heart of every Canadian patriot and philanthropist. That the country is abundantly capable of sustaining a numerous, enlightened, and happy people, is clear; but it is a sad truth, that the richest blessings of nature and Providence may be so abused as to prove evils instead of benefits, and many countries evidently designed to be the abodes of light and liberty, health and happiness, have