

Canadians Interpreters between Britain and States.

It would seem that Canadians, because of their ancestry, their history and their geographical position, are qualified in an especial sense to act as interpreters between the Mother-land and the United States; for we are Americans just as truly as you are though, of course, in a different sense of the word. And we are British just as truly as we are American. We do not aspire to any official status in this connection. We will discharge the function best if we, in our several capacities, whether public or private, seek to justify the confidence of Britons overseas and at the same time to maintain the respect of those who are our neighbors and our friends. Canada could, in my humble judgment, seek no higher destiny.

"If All Americans Knew the Motherland"

If all Americans knew the Mother-land as we know her; if they knew her history, so much of which is also their history; if they knew the uncomplaining and truly heroic way in which she has set herself to carry burdens which are so largely the burdens of others weaker than herself; if they knew the patience with which she has sought to help recalcitrant peoples, half blinded by the light of a new-found liberty, to a rational and effective self-government; if they knew the story of South Africa, of Egypt and of India; if they knew how courageously she is endeavoring at the present time to heal the sick soul of the Irish people, they would not love her perhaps as we love her, but there would be no room in their hearts for hate or even for indifference.

—"And All Canadians and Britons the States"

And if all Canadians and all Britons knew the America which so many of us know, the America of happy memories and of close personal friendships, the America of Washington and of Lincoln, of Theodore Roosevelt and of Woodrow Wilson; if they knew the difficulties she has had to overcome and the achievements she has wrought; if they knew how much of the social betterment of mankind has waited upon and still waits upon her leadership, the man who sought to arouse anti-American prejudice among us would thereby stamp himself not only with the brand of ignorance, but also with the brand of crime.

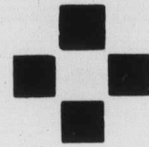
As ardent runner straining at the goal,
Or valiant swimmer in a perilous sea,
So have we watched thee strive, and seen thy soul
At length to greatness grown and majesty.

What tasks were thine when first thy course began!
To tame the wilderness; a government,
Free from the taint of ancient wrong, to plan
For the wide spaces of a continent!

Heroes have led thee on thine onward way;
Sages have spoken oft the prophet call
Which stirred thy soul when sloth would bid thee stay,
And thou hast sought to be a friend to all.

We see thee standing stronger with the years,
With yet the light of youth upon thy face,
What glorious hopes hast thou fulfilled! What fears
Hast thou belied! What promise for the race

Yet waits performance! Thou who art the child—
The eldest child, of Saxon liberty—
God grant thou keep the treasure undefiled,
A trust for generations yet to be.



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