

of our Indians, which, continued to the present time, has been claimed rightly as one of Canada's crowning glories.*

Carleton urged the adoption of the Constitution of 1791 as necessary, took an active part in promoting it, and was called to England to assist by his advice in perfecting the measure, which is associated in the mind of the general reader with the memorable quarrel between Fox and Burke, and in the mind of the Canadian student with the division of the Province into Upper and Lower Canada, thus marking an important stage in the evolution of Canada.

Carleton had broad views of the value of the North-West, and proposed in 1778 the exploration of the continent, thus becoming one of the forerunners of overland Arctic exploration, and giving direction to the thoughts of Canadians at an early period in their history—thoughts which in later years were to be transformed into deeds, the memorial tablets of which are the acquisition of the North-West, the creation of Manitoba, and the construction of the interoceanic railway.†

He was the first Governor-General of British North America, and is numbered among the early grandfathers of Confederation; for in 1790, writing to Hon. W. W. Grenville (afterwards Lord Grenville), then Secretary of State administering the affairs of the Colonies, he "submitted the wisdom of having a general government for His Majesty's Dominions upon this

continent (as well as a Governor-General), whereby the united exertions of His Majesty's North American Provinces may more effectually be directed to the general interests, and to the preservation of the unity of the Empire."

As a man, high placed, always on the watch tower, Carleton kept his eye fixed upon the Unity of the Empire, conceiving it to be the star of destiny for Great Britain, and believing Confederation to be a most effective means for its accomplishment.

He successfully withstood Simcoe in his efforts to make London the great trade centre of Upper Canada, preferring Toronto. He thwarted the same Lieutenant-Governor's desire to make Toronto the military centre of the Province, preferring Kingston; and in both instances time has proved his superior wisdom.

In many other ways he secured a firm position in the love and esteem of the people of Canada. His strong sense of justice appealed to the French-Canadians and caused them to have an abiding faith in him. The story is told that on one occasion an army officer, driving out of Quebec in a carriage, found his way blocked by a *habitant's* team. The man of the sword ordered the man of the pruning-hook to get out of his way. Fired by the overbearing manner of the officer, the teamster refused to give more than half the winter road. The son of Mars blustered, and finally the two came to blows, the officer coming off second best. Guy Carleton heard of the fracas, and sending for the *habitant*, obtained from him his side of the story. The Governor asked the man of the tuque if he knew with whom he had fought; "No, sir, I have not the slightest idea," was the answer. "Well," said Sir Guy, "he is my nephew." The *habitant*, not in the least abashed, but full of confidence in Sir Guy's impartiality—or, perhaps, it would be nearer the truth to say, partiality for French-Canadians—replied, "I am glad to hear that, for I know now that he will get his just deserts for attacking me."

* Guy Carleton, in February, 1778, informed the Government of Nova Scotia that "Priest Bourg has already orders to proceed to Halifax to receive instructions for the establishment of his mission among the Indians of the St. John River, his (Carleton's) object being to employ the zeal and fidelity of the French priests to preserve the Indians by a policy of conciliation, to the English in their struggle with the Colonial troops." These Indians had been much incensed by the removal of their priest, Father Charles Bailly, by Lord William Campbell.

† Early in 1778 he wrote to Lord Shelburne: "I can easily find in the troops here (Quebec), many officers and men very ready to undertake to explore any part of this continent, who require no other encouragement than to be told that such service will be acceptable to the King, and, if properly executed, will recommend them to his favour. . . . Should His Majesty think proper to allow the traders to go up the Western Lakes, as formerly, I think a party might winter in one of their posts, set out early in the spring for the Pacific ocean, find out a good port, take its latitude and longitude, and describe it so accurately as to enable our ships from the East Indies to find it out with ease, and then return the following year. Your Lordship will readily perceive the advantage of such discovery."