

manifest than ever before in our history that Canadians of all nationalities and creeds feel that the prosperity and advancement of their country depends upon the maintenance of an indissoluble relationship with that Empire, whose glory, whose traditions, whose wealth and whose power is to-day viewed with jealousy and hostility by the other nations of the earth.

The benefits to which a strong and vigorous patriotism gives rise are incalculable. An eminent writer has said that in the absence of such a patriotism "the heart of a country is cold, cramped and sordid, her arts of no enduring impulse and her commerce of no invigorating soul." Oh! the significance which that magic word "patriotism" imports. Down the centuries it has come to aid mankind in wringing from unwilling oligarchies its treasured concessions. For ages the human race has burnt at its shrines the incense of admiration and reverence. Most beautiful are those pages of history whereon its deeds are recorded. The song of the poet is sweetest when he tunes his lyre in harmony with its whisperings; the voice of the orator is most potent, when his words are in symphony with its music.

In the upbuilding and welfare of a nation patriotism constitutes a most important factor because it flows out to that which is the most precious and dearest of earth's possessions—our native land. This to a Canadian and a British subject has a meaning,—for Canada to-day is a land of human dignity and human freedom. Her fields and her forests, her rivers and her lakes, her seas and her mountains, her mines and her institutions have claims upon us and are well worthy our loyalty and our love. In Canada the common fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man are recognized doctrines. In Canada all men are civilly and politically equal. All enjoy the same rights. All wield in the ballot the same mighty arm of defence. The sole condition of power and of right is simple manhood. It is the enjoyment of such liberties that gives to life its sweetness and to power its development. In reading the history of the world we find that humanity never ceased to dream of liberty, and its possession was mankind's greatest aspiration. Occasionally its refreshing breezes came to caress humanity's brow. Slowly but surely, however, the waves of democracy arose and washed away those