

teacher and pupil, do our best to raise the standard of education—here and now, in this very school-room.” Nations pride themselves on the observance of good faith, the fulfilment of treaty obligations, scrupulous regard for the rights of others, especially of the weak. All these qualities can be emphasized in the little community of which the teacher is the head. If children are allowed to cheat in school and to bully in the playground, we cannot expect the foreign policy of the nation to rise higher than its source. On the other hand, we ought to expect a high standard of conduct in a nation whose children had been taught to be scrupulously honorable, and to show special courtesy to the timid newcomer, the deformed, the feeble in mind or body.

It is a great work of patriotism to invest the common, everyday duties of life with dignity and interest. In theory, of course, every boy in Canada may become Prime Minister or a famous general ; but in practice, most of them will just mark their ballots on election day, raise wheat and cattle, keep shop, work in factories and raise families. Now it is surely a mischievous thing to tell the mass of men that while they are doing these duties they are sordid slaves, and that they are patriotic only when shouting or letting off fireworks. Much better to say that a well-kept farm adds to the wealth and credit of Canada, and is therefore patriotic. He was a

shallow fellow who coined the word “parochial” as a term of contempt to describe a low and petty view of public affairs. True, a township councillor may have a petty way of looking at things ; but so may a member of the Imperial Parliament. The spirit in which the work is done is the vital thing. There is patriotism in the liberal provision for schools, in good roads and bridges, in clean and sanitary cities and towns. For all this is civilization, which is the rational basis of patriotism.

In this view the militant side of patriotism may seem to be neglected. But it must be remembered that the occasions for the display of militant patriotism are very few. Normally and usually the country is at peace ; even in war, the proportion of the fighters to the whole population is small. What is wanted is a patriotism that will stimulate the whole people and illuminate their lives every day in the year. This cannot be done by merely recalling past wars and contemplating the possibility of future conflicts. But if it is once recognized that patriotism consists in the faithful doing of the everyday duties of life, industrial, social and political, a working basis of patriotism is established. Moreover, in case war should come, a people animated by a spirit of pride in their daily work and the civilization and institutions of their country would be very formidable.