

hands carrying life and loveliness wherever it goes. And when you bear in mind that every dollar that a man earns in the back woods stimulates his nature, every book that he reads stimulates his nature, every sermon that he hears stimulates his nature, and so far as he is concerned opens up a market, makes him cry out for a watch to wear in his pocket, or an instrument for his daughters to play upon at home, you can see what the tendency of all this prosperity and wealth which is ours is, and how new branches of industry must ever be springing up to cope with the ever increasing demands of a prosperous people. Look at the country in this light, and you will say with the Psalmist: "Walk about Zion, etc."

But I have greater things than these to speak to you about to-night in connection with our country. I refer to the Educational advantages which it presents to the rising generation. Certainly, no country is better situated in regard to schools and libraries, and facilities for instruction, if we except the United States. There is not a poor boy in the Dominion who has not the free offer of an excellent English education—nay, that is not under law to accept of a good English education. Then by easy gradation, he can rise to the Grammar School, the Collegiate Institute, and finally the University; and if in the course of his instruction he manifests any special aptitude for the arts or sciences, the way of cultivating that special gift is made easy to him by kindred institutions which are generously sustained by the Legislature. There is such an institution in Toronto, attended just now by about one hundred pupils, some of whom have made their way thither through difficulties, and who probably will ere long make their way to real excellence in the arts which they love, and thus become a source of wealth to the land.

I have been speaking of the natural wealth of the country, but what is that compared to the intellectual wealth of the people? One educated man is better than any one of those silver islands in Lake Superior. One wise man, though poor and not remembered, has before now delivered the city; and we are assured by the highest authority that wisdom is better than arms. The great poet is better than a millionaire: for though he only wrote one short song like that which lately thrilled the heart of Germany,

"The Rhine, the Rhine! the glorious Rhine!"

It may be such a song as to kindle a nation's feeling and become a nation's hymn, so that when sung in the day of adversity, it shall bring more strength to the country than a whole argosy laden with gold. Who does not know that this has been the effect of our national songs? Who does not know that they have been the means of promoting courage and constancy and enthusiasm and a leal-hearted allegiance, and all that conserves order and knits the strength and binds up the hearts of the people? Why was Germany enabled to deal