

In the old Provincial Building, where we hope to meet this evening, Mr. Lawrence Kavanagh stood in 1827, the first Roman Catholic member since the Reformation to represent a constituency in British dominions.

And there is another old building here, which to my mind should be full of interest for all Canadians. It was a Nova Scotia. Sir Samuel Cunard, who had the enterprise to start the first line of transatlantic steamships, and there are men in Halifax to-day who remember when the *Britannia*, the first Cunarder, came up the harbor and to the shipping office of S. Cunard & Co.

And may I draw your attention to our geographical position, and to our incomparable harbor. It has the largest dry dock on this side of the Atlantic; it is defended by one of the most powerful fortresses in the world, and at any hour of day or night, summer or winter, in any state of the tide, the largest and swiftest ships afloat may come alongside the pier, or leave it punctually, without delay or interruption.

I trust that when this Association meets next in Halifax it will find the western terminus of the fast Atlantic service safe in the keeping of the "Warden of the Honor of the North."

Finally, bear with me if I point to our educational institutions. Dalhousie University, the only undenominational college in the province, has not only supplied professors to several universities in the United States, but furnished a distinguished successor to the renowned Tait of Edinburgh, and only the other day, sent one to the University of Birmingham. We have also a medical college whose graduates are now dotted all over the Dominion and the United States, reflecting credit on their province and their Alma Mater. There is the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, where results are obtained equal to those of any similar institution anywhere; and finally we have this School for the Blind in the hall of which we are met, which is presided over by Dr. Fraser, a gentleman second to none on this continent in the skill and success of his methods, and whose marvellous personality overcomes all disabilities and inspires all who come in contact with him.

This is not the first occasion on which the Association has met in Halifax.

In 1875 the Association first met here, and again in 1881, when the General Secretary was a young Montreal physician, whose name is now a master word in the schools of Esculapius the world over—the Regius Professor of Medicine in Oxford. At the meeting of 1881 the attendance was 53; to-day we have already registered over 200.

It is only fitting that I make reference to some of those who were with us then and who to-day are not. The President was