

But of all the stirring events I saw, none perhaps impressed me like the great banquet held in the Hotel Cecil on Dominion Day, to drink health and continued prosperity to Canada, the gem of the colonies.

Never in my life has it been my good fortune to sit down amongst such a distinguished company. Dukes, Lords, Earls, Generals, Admirals, Captains, Politicians, Authors, Artists, Lawyers, Doctors, Bishops, men great in position, great in wealth, great in science and intellect,

Lord Strachona full of years and honour presided.

There were many great speeches, but without exception the grandest after-dinner speech I ever listened to was delivered by one of the guests of the evening, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier of Canada, the silver-tongued orator. In an address full of flowing sentences, rounded periods, elegant diction and beauty of thought, he held his audience spellbound.

He described this Canada of ours in flowing terms, and like Nicodemus of old he invited our English guests to come and see.

Come in the leafy month of June, when the country is in beautiful verdure clad; stay and see the fields of golden grain in the far west. Stay a little longer and view the glorious tints of autumn.

Stay on and see Canada in winter, the ground clad in snow-white garb, the rivers and lakes bound in ice, the keen frosty air reverberating with the merry jingle of the sleigh-bells, and the shouts of the merry skater and snowshoer, and when the day has waned see the night, the blue vault of heaven lit up with myriads of stars and the moon shedding a pale light over the scene; turning the darkness of night into the brightness almost of noonday.

And, as Agrippa exclaimed as he listened to the eloquence of Paul, "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christain," so every Englishman said in his inmost soul, "almost thou persuadest me to be a Canadian."

Then followed such a burst of cheering and enthusiasm, as I had never before heard.

Such, indeed, was the speech of a man, born an after-dinner speaker, and what would I not give to have such a gift, but this is a digression.

I am not here as an emissary of Sir Wilfrid's, nor has the Government subsidized me to gain votes for the next