

traversing the intervening distances between the Mother Country, Canada, Australasia, and India in the least possible space of time, and with as absolute freedom from danger as is attainable.

You will, I trust, believe in the honesty of purpose with which I shall present my own views, not from an undue sense of their value, but from the conviction that the most humble amongst us may be capable of adding to the common stock of experience, even though it be slight. Expressions of error or of mistaken views may even be of service if they lead to examination and criticism; a recommendation which is impracticable may suggest what is practicable and attainable; it may awaken attention to a public want and lead abler minds than its advocate to grapple successfully with the difficulties which he has failed fully to meet. I must respectfully ask that this view of the duty I have undertaken may be kindly accepted as an explanation for my appearance before you at this meeting of the Institute.

Allow me then in the first place to direct your attention to the map of the world on the wall. On this map my friend Dr. Parkin has depicted in a conspicuous manner the British possessions in both hemispheres. It will be apparent to you that the Dominion, as a member of the Empire, occupies a singularly central geographical position. To the west we see the British possessions in Asia and in Australasia; to the east those in Europe and Africa. Two great oceans, the Pacific on the one side, the Atlantic on the other, provide the means of direct communication by steamship between Canada and every point where the British flag flies on these oceans. Coal, an indispensable adjunct to steam navigation, is not wanting; nature has furnished a bountiful supply for the marine of the future on both oceans; it is found in inexhaustible deposits on the eastern and western sea-boards of Canada.

From these facts, and a knowledge of the many and varied resources of the Dominion, from an intimate acquaintance with its people, I feel warranted in expressing the belief that Canada is destined to play an important part in the future of the British Empire.

In June 1897 four centuries will have elapsed since the first recorded European voyage was made to that portion of the American Continent now known as the Dominion of Canada. Although the commander of the vessel was born in Venice, the crew was English, and the voyage was undertaken with the private resources of the merchants of an English seaport. The vessel was a small craft, "The Matthew," of Bristol, with a crew of eighteen men.