

## WHEN THE GRAIN IS RIPE

It does not take measures to escape from its envelope and ask the wind to bear it to the soil where it will recommence its germination. The new hatched chick does not reflect on the strength of its bony system and the thickness of its plumage. It breaks its shell and dances gaily its first steps in the sunshine. The chrysalis falls of itself from off the butterfly which soars away to kiss the flowers. In the same manner nations awake to life when the time comes for them to break the shell. The community that labors for its healthy growth, for the elevation of its moral and material stature, is the one that advances most surely towards emancipation, towards independence. When it feels itself strong, when it feels itself ready, its instinct tells it to go alone and set out in confidence. All the better then for those prudent men who shall have understood the situation, being ready with their aid and guidance. Since it began its life, over two centuries and a half ago, our country has nobly fulfilled its destiny; Providence has watched over its days in calm as in storm; but Providence helps those that help themselves, and Canada has offered no exception to the rule. Not without effort has Canada preserved her character, maintained her liberties. Let her continue in those fair traditions. Now that she is advancing towards maturity, in the future as in the past, the people will recognize the men who will know how to guide the nation under its new conditions. It must resist the seductions that lie in wait for it at that stage of its career, as it made head against the encroachments that assailed its infancy and youth. From another standpoint, if our politicians have only to formulate regimes or constitutions in advance, their role in the country is no less grand, important and beset with difficulty. They have successfully taught the people the lessons of industry, loyalty, submission, confidence. They have taught them to be sufficient to themselves. To these precepts they must add the secret of profiting by progress accomplished, a rational sense of strength and dignity, the art of directing, of ruling their own destiny, and, above all, that profound patriotism which comprehends the grand task of creating a new nationality, of bringing to the birth a people who, with lofty front, with assured regard and firm heart can set foot as a sovereign on the soil that belongs

to it, and for which it sees in the distance the promise of a grand empire.

## IN OLD EUROPE.

whence I have just come, and where I have followed with interest the movement of opinion, there seems to be a fear that we are being drawn within the fascination of the neighboring republic, that our tendency is towards absorption by the United States. To those who spoke to me of such tendency, I replied that affection, self-love and interest stood as a barrier against it; that, in addition to prejudices of race and religion there had developed in Canada a national feeling which bound together a community apparently so heterogeneous; and I was happy to be able to add that the progress accomplished, during the twenty-one years of Confederation, and especially during the last decade made the

## TITLE OF CANADIAN CITIZEN

a designation of justifiable and honest pride, both for those who spoke French and those who spoke English. And what I said to my friends in Europe I repeat here on my native soil: the attitude of our powerful neighbor has nothing that need alarm us. Let their prosperity serve as an example to us; but let it not seduce us. Nay, their colossal power is to us an element of security. As for forced annexation, it would be in contradiction to all the political traditions of America; it would be a violent denial of the very principle that gave birth to the Republic. As for annexation by the reduction of material advantages, the very strongest sentiment that sways both communities and individuals—that of self-preservation—is opposed to it. The advantages offered would not compensate for the interests lost, without counting the sacrifice of honor, which surely is of some weight with us. I am not, indeed, of those who reproach with disloyalty the promoters of commercial union. But I sincerely believe that they are deceived and that their schemes are dangerous to the real interests of our country. As for gaining those ends by dishonest methods, the people may be trusted on that point if the attempt were made, whatever example a few politicians might set. The conscience and honor of a nation are not to be bought. Besides, why should we not have

## OUR MANIFEST DESTINY

in this western hemisphere? Why, in the consort of peoples and empires should we not have our distinct part to play? Have