

your fellow-countrymen, and that the history, the literature and the ethnical temperament of those people claim at your hands more than a vague and indistinct knowledge.

Now, to the students of French extraction, let me say: Gentlemen, learn English; do not rest satisfied with a superficial study of that language, but master it. For every one of us to understand and to speak the language of the majority is a necessity, from an economical standpoint. If the history of the French language is a glorious one, remember, also, that the wealth of English literature is made up of such glorious names as those of Shakespeare, Byron, Tennyson and Macaulay, to cite a few only of its galaxy of great writers. Again, it is in the English text that you will have to read the masterpieces of parliamentary eloquence, in which you will learn, through the voices of Chatham, Pitt, Fox, Burke, and, within a period less remote from our times, the oratory of Russell, Grey, Palmerston, D'Israeli, Gladstone, how flexible and subtle withal, how wise and liberal is that admirable British Constitution by which we are governed and our rights secured to us.

He would be narrow-minded, indeed, and lacking in true patriotism, the man who would try to discourage either of the two great races living in this country, in the study and knowledge of both official languages.

Canada is, beyond all dispute, a country with the greatest possibilities. To-morrow the younger generation, now sitting on the benches of our Universities, will be called upon to shape and to lead public opinion. Our country shall be what the educated classes will want her to be. Gentlemen, upon you devolves a noble duty, and that duty consists in accustoming yourselves, on the very threshold of your career, to the practice of justice and freedom in your daily intercourse, and in your dealings with your fellow-men.

You have religious convictions, do not be afraid to affirm them. But, at the same time, you should make it your duty to respect the convictions of other people; toleration, which harmonizes well with strong convictions, is a virtue to be practised in a mixed community like ours.

A last word, my young friends: We live, we are told, in a century which is essentially and thoroughly positive, a century where the search after the ideal is useless.

Take care you do not allow yourselves to be infected by such skepticism, a doctrine which is as demoralizing as it is barren. On