

and that the Dominion Government and the sister Provinces will lend their friendly aid. Nothing so impracticably ambitious as an imitation of a general Industrial World's Fair need be aimed at. If such a project would have any real importance it would be quite beyond our means to attempt, and would certainly meet with a cold response from other countries. On the other hand, a purely historical exhibition is quite within the limits of our means, and I might add, of our claims upon the attention of the world. Already we have in Canada archaeological collections of great extent and interest. Our various public and university libraries are rich in appropriate materials. The historical societies and the Federal and State governments of the American Republic might be appealed to with confidence to contribute out of their invaluable collections. They would not refuse to thus practically exhibit their recognition of the alacrity with which the Canadian and Ontario Parliaments voted to contribute to the success of the Columbian Exhibition, at a time when so many other nations were hesitating and even discouraging the project. These repositories and the libraries and museums of Great Britain, public and private, must contain a collection of portraits, historical pictures, and documents, and other materials of immense interest, if brought together to illustrate the men, events, and manners of the successive periods of progress which led from the fifteenth century to the closing years of the nineteenth.

There is more reason to hope for such a response, not only from Great Britain, but from many foreign Governments, because such a vast exhibition, purely historical in character, fitting the closing years of the most marvellous century in history, has never yet taken place. In the Columbian Exhibition, the historical was less attended to than the industrial. As a

feature, it was practically lost in the dazzling immensity of that magnificently successful undertaking.

Toronto, with its central and accessible position in respect to the Continent, its inviting summer climate, its amplitude of houseroom, and the accommodation offered by its numerous public buildings, possesses many practical qualifications for holding such an Exhibition. Nor is it a site quite lacking in appropriate historic interest. The monument planted by the York Pioneers in the Exhibition Grounds marks the spot where Fort Rouille once overlooked the blue distances of Lake Ontario. But the French Fort, erected in the latter days of the old *régime*, was only an intermediate landmark between the present time and an immemorial antiquity of human occupation. The name, Toronto (perhaps as old as "Canada"), signifies the "meeting place of nations." The neck of the peninsula of Western Ontario was a prehistoric trade route between the Upper Lakes and Lake Ontario.

Two miles up the neighboring river, almost within the city limits, rises a pine-crowned bluff, (by some happy chance, still sacred from the axe) traditionally known as the Indian Burying Ground, and formerly rich in relics of the aborigines. It was the customary terminal camping-place of the tribes, beginning or ending their toilsome traverse, by tortuous and interrupted streams, across the watershed between Lakes Huron and Ontario.

Fort Rouille was planted to command this ancient communication. From its palisades could be seen the fleets of canoes leaving the lake for the brown current of the River Huron, often in those days crowded with the leaping salmon. Following a rule almost invariable in the experience of this continent, we find Indian sagacity anticipating the choice of commerce. On the sites of the wigwams of the past, stand the chief modern centres of civilization.