

*How magnificent are her heritages!*

A language rich and splendid in which the sublimest of poets, and the most resistless of orators, have found adequate expression for their overflowing souls; a literature which has not only created its own ideals but has appropriated to itself all that is beatific, refined and ennobling in that of erudite Greece and classic Rome; a constitutional system of Government free, unfettered, almost independent, for the principle of which she has had no fight to make, no blood to shed, no years of paralyzed suspense to spend before entering into its enjoyment; a vast area laid off *in limine* by the hand of Nature and Providence, and whose resources are, as if impatient at the dilatory operations of man, obtruding themselves from beneath the soil into the very eye of every beholder; all the philosophic expositions of the human mind from the time when Socrates, Plato and Aristotle dazzled the ancient world with their almost superhuman penetration into its mysterious recesses, have been collected and sifted, the dross removed, and the pure elements not only retained but recast, remoulded and burnished anew by the no less profound and erudite men who have shed glory upon the Anglo-Saxon name and made clearer the way for that great elevation of man's moral character which in spite of purblindness and pessimism is now rapidly progressing.

All these are bestowed with the bountiful pride of a parent setting-off his favourite child upon the way of life. And there is more: This parent has said "Whosoever shall touch thee, or menace thee, so as to divert thee from laying the massive foundations of the greatness thou art destined to attain shall touch or menace me; my arm shall be above thee and about thee; and the forces both by Land and Sea that are at my command, are thine to ensure thy safety and freedom until that day when thou shalt be able to declare: 'I have attained the full vigour of Nationhood; I am able to stand alone, and to vanquish the secret or truculent foe.'"

With such a patrimony and with such auspicious *camaraderie*, can Canada fail

to make her greatness commensurate with her vastness? Only by perfidy to herself—only by selfishness and sordidness.

As the greatest of foes is not he who declares himself openly and from without, but he who insinuates monstrous wrongs and hellish projects from the very bosom of friendship into the ear of unsuspecting credulity, so the nation-degrading vices of selfishness and sordidness have their national Iago.

Canada stands aghast, if not positively angry, at the bare suggestion of any fate overtaking her, such as has extinguished or torporized other Nations and Empires in the past; but she must recognize that immunity from dangers which overwhelmed others, can only be secured by the operation of some force or quality that those others either did not possess or allowed to dwindle into desuetude.

The extinct or emasculated empires did not pass away or decline through want of vigour and energy. Their material and intellectual records tell us that they had calculated with much certainty and enthusiasm on their continuance to the end of time. Roman Laws and Institutions are studied to-day as models which, if not exactly adaptable to our own peculiar exigencies, are undoubtedly the germinal source from which our own have grown; and Roman Literature has contributed more to our language than all the dialects of the Angles, the Saxons and the Britons combined. But as soon as mercenariness—the lust of public plunder—in her leaders, and the apathy to, or tolerance of, that lust by her people, appeared, the knell of Rome was sounded; and her massive institutions, and subtle and scientific codes of Law toppled in a general confusion and ruin. Selfishness and sordidness had achieved for an envious world, all that the world seemed unable to accomplish for itself—the destruction of the Roman Empire.

*Selfishness and sordidness exist to-day as they did in the days of Rome.*

It is in no spirit of rancour that we touch this sore in Canadian National Life; and we do it only that it may be scientifically treated, and so radically removed that it may never again display