

German, one-half million, French, and the remainder, Italian and other tongues. No;—the difficulty is not in the multitude of differences, real or fancied, that exists, but rather in finding some common basis of agreement strong enough to counteract disintegrating tendencies. Where are we to look for such a basis? In a work, lately published, an Englishman who paid us a visit, remarks that “to the Canadian it is of small concern what you think of his country. He has little of patriotic pride in it himself. Whatever pride of country a Canadian has, its object, for the most part, is outside of Canada.” And the writer, from whom we are quoting, goes on to assert that “whatever may be alleged to the contrary, the belief in the possibility of a separate future for Canada is steadily lessening among Canadians.” Is this true? True or not, there is certainly some ground to justify a casual visitor in such a conclusion. We have too many among us who are ever ready to worship a foreign Baal, to the neglect of their own tutelary gods. There are too many Cassandras in our midst; too many who whimper over our supposed weakness and exaggerate others’ supposed strength. But there are those who do not despair of the State; who are neither weak-kneed nor faint of heart; who know that strength comes from within. There is a name I would fain approach with befitting reverence, for it casts athwart memory the shadow of all those qualities that man admires in man. It tells of one in whom the generous enthusiasm of youth was but mellowed by the experience of cultured manhood; of one who lavished the warm love of an Irish heart on the land of his birth, yet gave a loyal and true affection to the land of his adoption; who strove with all the power of genius to convert the stagnant pool of politics into a stream of living water; who dared to be national in the face of provincial selfishness, and impartially liberal in the teeth of sectarian strife; who from Halifax to Sandwich sowed broadcast the seeds of a higher national life,