

## THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. GEO. W. ROSS BEFORE  
THE CANADIAN CLUB OF HAMILTON, APRIL 27TH, 1908.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—

His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada, has suggested that in conjunction with the celebration of the tercentenary of the City of Quebec it would be a fitting thing to provide for the conversion of the Plains of Abraham into a national park in memory of Montcalm and Wolfe and of that decisive battle with which their fame and the destiny of Canada are inseparably associated. The suggestion is a most worthy one—worthy of the distinguished representative of His Majesty with whom it originated and worthy of the occasion which it is designed to commemorate.

I propose, as a small contribution to the interest which His Excellency's suggestion has aroused, asking your attention to the historical significance of that event to Canada, to America and to Great Britain.

As to Canada the first consideration is that a partnership was formed on the Plains of Abraham between two great world races in the occupation and development of French America. True, the partnership was not a voluntary one in the first instance. For many years there was great uncertainty as to its practicability and permanence, yet from the first, both parties to the compact evinced a desire to conduct the partnership on friendly and equal terms, and where friction occurred as to methods of business (and that was not infrequent in its early history) to vary such methods where possible, without prejudice to the ultimate success of the partnership.

The articles of partnership were formally signed on the Plains of Abraham outside the City of Quebec on the 18th September, 1759, and went into immediate effect. But the business of the senior member of the firm dates from a much earlier day and began in this way. In 1535 Jacques Cartier started out to explore the wilds of America, sailed up the St. Lawrence and took possession of everything in sight for the use and benefit of the King of France.

A few years later Champlain, another explorer and agent of the King of France, went still further west, ascended the Ottawa River some two hundred miles and crossed the Height