

LOOKING BACKWARD

HERE, for the present, our sketches of Old Sydney must end. In these days, our minds are so taken up with present-time events that we are inclined to give but little thought to that which pertains to days gone by. We are all interested in the awful conflict in which the nations are engaged, we all look for but one issue, whatever be the cost. There is so much in the present that to many it may seem but folly to stir up memories of the past.

Yet, in times of war as in times of peace, memories have their place. A people without traditions can never be a nation, nor can a country without a history fight for freedom. A look backward may not always be satisfactory: such a view may not be uniformly pleasing. But if we are to measure progress, we must once in a while look the past fairly in the face. And if we find that our ways are better than the ways of those whom we have succeeded, we must not forget that the credit belongs largely, not to us, but to them. They labored to improve conditions and modes of living; we enjoy the fruits of their labor.