

and even betrayal, Ireland and Irishmen have ever been true to the sacred cause of individual liberty and national freedom. And please God the day is not far distant when the age-long struggle shall end and Ireland shall secure, what is her indisputable right, that entire self-government, which has made our own fair land so happy, prosperous and contented. (Great applause).

O Ireland, Erin beloved!
Mother of saints and of heroes,
Who hath kept the faith unpolluted,
Never faltering nor failing
Through the dark ages of sorrow.
Fair as some innocent maiden,
Whom a burden of anguish oppresses,
But who gazes with eyes unbeckoned
To the happier days of the future,
When the long darkness shall vanish
And justice and freedom shall triumph,
O Ireland, Erin beloved!
That day shall soon dawn.

FIRST THOUGHT FOR CANADA

Well, I say, may you all be proud of your Irish origin. But whilst you as Irishmen, whilst all Canadians, no matter what their origin may be, have a right to take a pride in the lands of their forefathers, whilst we may, indeed whilst we shall

"Ne'er forget the good old blood
That courses through our veins"

For

"Proud Scotia's fame, old Erin's name,
And mighty Albion's powers
Reflect their matchless lustre on
This Canada of ours"

yet it is to Canada, to this great Dominion of ours, that we all owe our first thought and our undying love, allegiance and devotion (loud applause).

Sometimes I think of Canada as a grand and imposing structure upon which successive bodies of workers have been employed. The foundations, as you all know, were laid by those heroic and intrepid Frenchmen, who were the discoverers, the pioneers, the colonizers, the earliest apostles of Christianity and of civilization on the North

* Specially composed by the speaker for the occasion.