

allowing or disallowing of foreigners to do our own labor, the regulation and control of manufactured articles, the encouragement of our undeveloped resources, and, among other things, the importation of all things necessary to supply the wants and desires of a great people. Moreover, in the interest of a free, progressive, and commercial country, it is necessary for foreign markets to be kept open, that friendly relations exist between us and neighbouring nationalities, and that the bond of union between us and the Mother Country be firmly cemented. Hence we see that those who hold the helm of state, while seemingly the favorites of fortune, have no light task to perform.

The question, then, before us is,—What qualifications should the citizen, living in Canada under present conditions, possess, to render him an efficient factor in discharging these duties?

In the first place, as all citizens cannot give personal attention to the work of government, nor be personally present in Parliament, a selection must be made. Now, it would be absurd to expect that any one human being could understand the complete work of government. Though no representative can be perfect, yet every representative should have an ideal statesman. Insight into events transpiring in the State, and foresight with regard to the future, are two of his highest and most necessary qualities. That he may on one hand defend himself against the attacks of his enemies, and on the other hand expound his policy to the country, he must be a practised public speaker, a speaker who combines argument with eloquence, who appeals to the passions through the mind, and to the mind through the passions, and who leads his audience to his just purpose by the combined and powerful influence of human reason and feeling. He must have a morality so strict, a conscience so tender, and a

will so strong, that to him the performance of the slightest claim of duty will seem a sacred obligation. For him each new rock on the political ocean will be but an additional opportunity of exhibiting his power as a State pilot. A man who, as it were, standing on an eminence, sees with his mind's eye all our past history, and cons in his heart the memory of all the glorious achievements of his countrymen, and who, looking forward toward the future, prepares to meet the dangers and duties which are before him. A man so generous and courteous that he will never act in a spirit of unkindness towards his previous opponents at the polls; one who can say, "What I do for my party will never cloud what I do for my country." He must have a patriotism so genuine and deep-rooted that no kin, no bribe, no family ties—nothing can bar him from laying himself a willing sacrifice on his country's altar, if by so doing he could save his Canadian fatherland. That he may have a firm foundation for his canvass, Canada makes of him three demands,—that he have good birth, integrity, and energy. But if he have not all these he must not think that the doors of office are barred to him. Wealth, though desirable, is not essential, for, thanks to the puritan sentiment of pioneer ancestors, idleness is a crime, but honest poverty is often an advantageous disadvantage. The great Tennyson has described for us the

"divinely gifted man
Whose life in low estate began.
And on a simple village green.

Who breaks his birth's invidious bar,
And grasps the skirts of happy chance,
And breathes the blame of circumstance,
And grapples with his evil star.

Who makes by force his merit known,
And lives to clutch the golden keys,
To mould a mighty State's decrees,
And shape the whispers of the throne.

And moving up from high to higher,
Arrives on fortune's crowning slope,
The pillar of a people's hope,
The centre of a world's desire."