

for two hundred years the intrepid navigators of old France, De Monts, Champlain, St. Denis, LaTour, explored these bays and headlands.

If you can spare time to visit Annapolis you will find traces of the French occupation, and see still in good preservation the old powder magazine, the oldest European masonry in America north of Mexico, and built of stone brought from France. Midway in the province, you come to Grand Prè, with its crowded memories of the past, and its wide acres of fertile dyke lands, which we owe to the industry of the early French settlers. And in the extreme east you will find the historic ruins of Louisburg, where the sea birds cry over the rain-swept turf which covers many a gallant heart. Nova Scotia may indeed claim its share in thrilling memories of "old, unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago."

We can point with pride to the distinguished names of many Nova Scotians. I shall avoid the troubled waters of political life and will mention only the fact that two of the most distinguished college presidents in this country were Nova Scotians, viz., Sir J. W. Dawson, of McGill, and Rev. G. M. Grant, of Queen's. In literature we are proud of the reputation of Haliburton. The hero of Kars and the defender of Lucknow were both Nova Scotians. Our shipbuilders and our sailors have carried our name around the world, and it is safe to say that there are few ports in the world where you may not find a Nova Scotian sea captain.

This city of Halifax is crowded with historic memories. It was up this harbor that the ill-fated squadron of D'Anville, shattered and storm-tossed, came to anchor, to meet a more deadly foe than wind and wave in the pestilence which destroyed hundreds of brave soldiers. It was here that Cornwallis, stout soldier and sagacious statesman, arrived in 1749 and laid the foundations of this city. St. Paul's Church, built in 1750, is the oldest Protestant church in the Dominion of Canada, and the old churchyard of St. Paul's is one of the most interesting cemeteries in this country. In it were laid side by side the heroic dead who made the names of the *Shannon* and the *Chesapeake* famous.

In the old Provincial Building, where we hope to meet this evening, Mr. Lawrence Kavanagh stood in 1827, the first Roman Catholic member since the Reformation to represent a constituency in British dominions.

And there is another old building here, which to my mind should be full of interest for all Canadians. It was a Nova Scotian, Sir Samuel Cunard, who had the enterprise to start the first line of transatlantic steamships, and there are men in Halifax to-day who remember when the *Britannia*, the first Cunarder, came up the harbor and to the shipping office of S. Cunard & Co.