

It is impossible either to look back on this long and stirring history, or to look forward to the heritage of Quebec in future generations, without entering a strong protest against any scheme for throwing down the walls, or any portion of them.

It is true that they are not so very old, and that they lack the historic charm of containing at least some remains of the old French works. But, on the other hand, they are most interesting in themselves, and doubly so because they still mark the lines followed by those which existed in the days of Wolfe and Montcalm. Moreover, they have the priceless advantage of making Quebec absolutely unique among all the cities of America. It may be that if Quebec were to lose all claim to being the one walled city of the western world, she might still remain a queen among her sister cities. For her superb, unchallengeable throne was founded in strength and set here in beauty by Nature ages long ago. But it was Man who came and crowned her. And where the works of Nature and of Man have so perfectly combined in one befitting glory, it would surely be an abject desecration to dis-crown her now. For let it be clearly understood that the true disgrace of any such schemes lies in their very wantonness. Of course necessity knows no law; and of course everything must accommodate itself to its surroundings in the struggle for existence, or die out. We all know that. And of course if war should ever require the destruction of the present walls, then they must be destroyed. And, equally of course, if peaceful traffic should ever really require it, then they must disappear just the same. But, as a matter of certain fact, neither war nor peace requires any such sacrifice at all. Modern defences would be far away from the city; and the walls around it could not do any harm, and might conceivably do good. And, as for peaceful every day traffic, it already has all the natural outlets that it requires, and can pass freely to and fro at will, without let or hindrance, inwards or out. Indeed, it may be truly said that the walls are now no more of a material barrier to traffic to-day than their memory would be, should they be wantonly thrown down to-morrow. But the greatest plea in their favour is that they are the living symbols of a glorious past, in which the honours of war were equally divided between French and English, and for the living monument of which, therefore, French and English alike should stand united. The water-front is the same from which Frontenac hurled steadfast defiance at the discomfited fleet and army of England; and the landward face follows the same line of defence which stood there when the two greatest masters of the art of war ever seen in Canada fought for the dominion of a continent—the profound and aspiring Wolfe, and the equally great, though unfortunate, Montcalm.

And so these present walls really stand as a link between the twin honours of two gallant races, as well as what should be a perpetual link between present, past and future.

And their own mute appeal is more eloquent of all living honour than all the vain words that might record them after they had disappeared forever.

I hope that these words, so much more eloquent in their appeal than any I could utter, will induce all members of this House,

regardless of party, to join in bringing this non-partisan matter to the immediate attention of the Government.

Upon none of the honourable gentlemen opposite do I rely more strongly than upon my friend from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Chapais), the learned author of several inspiring works on Canadian history, and the distinguished lecturer at the University of Laval.

Should we of this Chamber, who are all charged with some responsibility for instilling in coming generations a pride in our glorious history, not do our utmost to see that this greatest of all our monuments is made to resist the attacks of time?

Hon. J. S. McLENNAN: Honourable gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate our honourable colleague who has just taken his seat, on the important matter he has brought to the attention of this House and the Government, and its great historic influence. No other place that exists to-day as a living city has connected with it so many distinguished and truthfully historic memories as Quebec. Scarcely anywhere in Europe, and certainly nowhere else in America, has nature combined with the work of man to make a city more picturesque, or more appealing to those who visit it.

In the preservation of our historical monuments the Canadian people, whatever be their racial origin, must unite in a desire to safeguard for future generations what has been left to us by the past.

In connection with the honourable gentleman's appeal to the Government, I would call the attention of even the more erudite of our members, and of historians, to the fact that in Cape Breton there stands a citadel, with some vestiges of a town which in its time was as important as Quebec; I mean Louisburg. It was a town that the Government of France had fortified more strongly than they had fortified Quebec, and when the two nations engaged in their final struggle for the possession of North America it was as strongly garrisoned. I will not say much about generalship, but as regards bravery, there was as much displayed on both sides there as on the Plains of Abraham. It was at Louisburg that Wolfe for the first time showed those qualities of leadership, of care for his men, and of burning enthusiasm which later he displayed at Quebec. His death at Quebec made that city prominent in the public mind, but his services there were no more important than those which he gave at Louisburg, in the opinion of the people who have made military history their study.