

were greatly touched by the deep and widespread interest displayed by the American people in this event. May I be permitted to convey to you the sincere appreciation of the Queen's subjects in Canada, for your sensitive understanding of a ceremony which meant so much to us and, we believe, much to the world.

On an occasion such as this, made possible by your graceful hospitality, one is reminded of all that our Commonwealth owes to you, and, indeed, has owed ever since you established your free republic here on this continent. The principles enshrined in your Declaration of Independence and in your Constitution were a challenge to the British peoples in the 18th Century, and since, to seek out the sources of their ancient freedom - sources from which we all have fed. Thus, you helped us to cultivate our own institutions under the Crown, which to us is a symbol of freedom and duty. We are grateful to you for aiding us in the Commonwealth to preserve and enrich our own way of life.

Even at the very beginning, the noble emotions inspired by the Declaration of the fathers of this Republic, and the solid framework of the Constitution which they built, were comprehended and welcomed by many in Great Britain. I belong to a Club in London - a stronghold of the Whigs in the 18th Century - many of whose members used to receive the news of General Washington's victories with undisguised satisfaction. One of them, indeed, boasted that he had drunk the General's health every night during the course of the war in America.

To say that you in the United States and we in Canada have much in common, is a venerable platitude. Living as we do side by side on the same Continent, our resemblances are many. We have, too, similar views on fundamental things. Among our common characteristics, one of the greatest, I believe, is our dislike of regimentation - our respect for the differences which lend colour to everyday existence. We believe that each man should lead his own life; that each group of men should preserve its own customs. It is not surprising, therefore, that for all that we have in common, you and we should each preserve certain habits and traditions which we cherish because they belong to us. We know it is not your wish to have on your borders a mere replica of your own country, but rather a self-respecting community faithful to its own ways. We are thus better neighbours, because self-respect is the key to respect for others. On our side of the border you will find a country in which parliamentary government has been, we believe, successfully married to a federal system; a country whose people cherish two languages and two cultures - English and French; a land which has inherited from its mother countries in the old world many forms and customs which have been happily fitted into life in the new. These ways of ours you respect because they are ours, just as we respect your ways because they are yours. Thus, in the words of the "Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation", which laid the foundation of our present concord as long ago as 1794, we

"promote a disposition favourable to
"friendship and good neighbourhood".