

have been and still are a drag upon the old land. Let us as Canadians seek the ability and solidity of the English character, be truthful in living as in speaking, scorn the false in dress and appointments, aim at truth in public as in private life, cultivate the qualities that give the Englishman his frank and manly bearing. Let us not, following the example of many another race, be swamped by one phase of our environment.

What a child's moral character will be is as surely determined before its birth as what the shape of its head and color of its eye will be. By education we modify the former, but the latter very little, in this country at least. Just as we do not expect a kinky woolley negro child as the offspring of white parents, so we do not expect to see a noble high-spirited child the offspring of a craven coward. We do not know the governing laws, but we do know that the moral nature with which the child starts in life is the sum of all the moral forces that have preceded it in its own natural line. Through addition and subtraction this summation is obtained. The problem is too complex for solution, because many of the data are unknown to us. But we see the results of the working together of the various moral forces. What is "a chip off the old block" but a child bearing a remarkable resemblance in character to his father? How often we hear "how like his grandfather." Take these two expressions out of the language and you make null and void one-quarter of the novels in existence.

The little blue-eyed, sweet-faced cooing baby has wrapped up within a hereditary moral outfit. We cannot call it the *child's* character, as character is formed by the successive acts of the child itself, and the new-born child has as yet made no mark of any kind. How varied is the inheritance of children even in the same household! They are born cowardly or brave, generous or selfish, truthful or untruthful, sunny or gloomy dispositioned. We cannot choose our antecedents! The child is seriously hampered or materially helped in the race of life at the very start. He has not only, by successive moral selections, to build up a character for himself, but he has constantly to fight against inherited evil propensities. It may be that his fighting of evil toughens the moral fibre. Indeed, I am inclined to think that the boy of dullest moral perceptions and greatest tendency to evil turns out best in the long run, if he really