

geographical feature and situation as could be chosen for the commemorative purpose. The bold promontory, terminating the peninsula, and jutting far into the waters of Lake Huron, points onwards, by way of Lake Superior and the far west, the road to the distant Cipango and Cathay, which Cabot, like his predecessor Columbus, and his successors for more than a century, set out in the delusive hope of finding. The name "Cabotia" was at one time proposed as the designation for what was then more commonly known as British North America. It is to be found in that position on at least one published map known in Canada early in the present century. The late eccentric William Lyon Mackenzie, in his journal, *The Messenger*, seems to have been an advocate of the adoption of that name for the provinces. Again, in 1866, when the project of confederation was about to be carried out, and the subject for a name for the new Dominion was under discussion, the proposal of "Cabotia" was revived. Fortunately that means of honoring the discoverer was not approved. The imposition of a new name upon a long inhabited territory would not have been either convenient or appropriate. Wisely it was determined to apply to the whole Dominion, that ancient and prophetic designation: Canada—"the inhabited country"—which Cartier had adopted from the natives; which had besides become familiar to Europe and this continent, and which to a large portion of the inhabitants of the united Dominion had become a national, almost a racial name.

A statue of John Cabot ought to adorn some public place in the capital city of Ontario. It might fitly stand in front of our Provincial University, or in the midst of the beautiful square around which are grouped the numerous affiliated colleges. If its dedication were arranged for the year 1897, the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery, the cere-

monies might be converted into an educational event of the highest influence and interest, not only to ourselves, but I should hope to the inhabitants of the empire generally, and even to nations which have hitherto known and thought little of Canada or her historic or future relations to the world. Arrangements are already being made for the reception in that year of the British Association in Canada, under the auspices of the Canadian Institute. It would seem very appropriate, and not very difficult, to extend the occasion into a purely historical exhibition, commemorative of the momentous changes which have followed, and in a large measure resulted, from that discovery made in the grey day-break of St. John's Day, 1497. For the collections a purely historical exhibit might bring forth, and for attendant congresses and proceedings, a great part of the necessary space stands ready provided in the public institutions centralized in the pleasant neighborhood of the Queen's Park. An exhibition opening on the 24th of June, and continuing to the end of September, might find accommodation without inconvenience in the Parliament Buildings, the Provincial and affiliated universities and colleges.

I do not think it is out of the power of Canada to set on foot a national or even international commemoration worthy of the discovery and of its results.

A first resolution on the subject was introduced at a meeting of Historical Societies held at the Pioneer Lodge during the Toronto September Exhibition of 1894. The project has since been approved by a meeting of the Council of the Canadian Institute, authorizing communications to be opened with the authorities of the colleges on the subject of providing the necessary accommodation. It is to be hoped that the public spirit of the Provincial and city governments, and of private citizens will be aroused,