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Vital Problems of Canada.

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THE vastness and greatness of a country are by no means synonymous terms or synchronistic conditions; for while vastness may be ascribable to extraneous events and creative powers, the greatness is attributable entirely to the inherent virtues of the race by whom a country is inhabited.

Vastness, indeed, may contribute to greatness or beget weakness according to the manner in which the opportunities presented by it are utilized for good or evil; and the determinate or dynamic force of the one or the other is supplied by the organic body of the people themselves.

Russia and China are two conspicuous instances of vastness without greatness. Space precludes, at present, an interesting sketch of the stagnation of the one, and the retrogression of the other. Russia gave herself over to autocracy, and her people to slavery and serfdom; while China became enveloped in slum-

ber, and the nox of Chimera and Utopian dreams.

Selfishness and sordidness and national self-complacency converted the one into a tyrant, and the other into a lethargic inanity; and these same vices to-day are producing a new national disorder called *strenuosity*—a disease so absorbing that the body, mind and spirit of each individual infected by it are converted into a triumvirate force to crush out the ideals of existence, the amenities of life, and to subordinate everything to *Sacra Fames Auri*.

Canada should take warning and not, at the behest of Gold or Mammon, crush out of her children the hero-spirit, the only material with which the greatness of nations is permanently constructed.

She stands in a unique and unprecedented position. Nothing in ancient or modern history is to be compared to it; and nothing in former or contemporaneous times can measure the splendour of the national epoch she may now unfold.