

LORD ABERDEEN'S RECEPTION

Montreal's Hearty Welcome to the Governor and Lady.

The Civic Address and His Excellency's Reply—Opening of the Board of Trade Building—The Irish Societies' Welcome and the Speech in Reply to Their Address.

At the City Hall, on Wednesday morning, the Mayor presented the following address:—

To the Right Honorable Sir JOHN CAMPBELL HAMILTON-GORDON, Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada, etc., etc.

My Lord,—It is with sincere pleasure that we, the Mayor and Council of Montreal, avail ourselves of the privilege of bidding Your Excellency and the Countess of Aberdeen a cordial welcome to this city, and to the Dominion of which it is the commercial metropolis. Not as a stranger do we greet your Lordship and the accomplished lady who adds distinction to your ancient name. Whatever additional rights a citizen of the Empire may acquire by residence in Canada you have already won. The freedom of all our coasts, of all our cities, was already yours by adoption; yours by the love of all sections of our people. As the representative of the Sovereign, the fountain of honor and authority, it is doubly yours to-day. Welcome, my Lord, to Montreal; welcome for your own sake and for the sake of Lady Aberdeen; welcome in your exalted capacity as the deputy of our beloved Queen.

Canada has been exceptionally favored by a long line of Governors distinguished by abilities and virtues, and by their sides sat ladies, gifted and gracious, whose memories make bright the pages of our past. Not long ago it was our lot, in the course of life's vicissitudes, to part with a noble pair whom Canada had learned to love and to prize. In saying farewell to them it was a solace to know that their places would be filled by personages so esteemed in the Old World and the New as your Excellency and Lady Aberdeen.

We deem it a privilege to voice the sentiments of the community in hailing Your Excellency's arrival as an event of good omen. The prestige of a name honored in the annals of statesmanship has been enhanced by personal services of acknowledged worth; while the promptings of large-hearted benevolence have entwined the modest flower of charity in the wreath of patriotic desert. Nor, among the claims to our confidence and respect that have anticipated Your Excellency's advent can we forget the unobtrusive and self-denying labors which have made the Countess of Aberdeen a name of blessing to thousands in Scotland, in Ireland, and on this side of the ocean. Had the fame of such deeds been the only harbinger of Your Excellency's coming, we should hail it with loyal and joyous trust.

Again, my Lord, we bid you welcome to Montreal, hoping that it may be our privilege to contribute a share to the pleasure of your sojourn in Canada, and to participate in the blessings that we reasonably expect from Your Excellency's administration.

ALPH. DESJARDINS,
Mayor of Montreal.

L. O. DAVID, City Clerk.

Lord Aberdeen replied as follows:—
Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—The hearty and gracefully worded welcome which by this address you have accorded to me as Her Most Gracious Majesty's representative, and to the Countess of Aberdeen, is to us a source of unmixed satisfaction. You, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, are the constituted representatives of the citizens of Montreal, and if anything were needed to illustrate the fact that in your action to-day you are voicing the feelings of your constituents, it may be found in the demonstration of last night, when, headed by yourself, Mr. Mayor, and other leading official personages, a reception was accorded to us by which we were deeply and gratefully impressed. And now, in definite and permanent form you have placed in my hands the assurance and the record of public courtesy and good will.

Such a greeting, thus spontaneously and cordially offered by the chief civic dignitary and the municipality of this great and celebrated commercial community is a token of confidence and good will which, on the one hand furnishes an eloquent testimony to the loyalty and kindly disposition of Canadians, and on the other hand provides a fresh incentive and stimulus if any such were needed to an assiduous and constant endeavor to perform rightly the duties of the high and honorable position which we have been called upon to occupy.

Monsieur Le Maire. I observe that, according to usage you have recited this address in the two languages. I confess that such a practice on all fitting occasions appears to me to be both graceful and appropriate. Of course, as we all know, the alternative use of the French language in certain public proceedings is provided for by law; but I am referring also to the spontaneous and voluntary adoption of this method on such occasions as the present.

Surely such a practice is by no means to be regarded as an obsolete or meaningless form, still less as something

which represents a want of harmony or cohesion between the different elements of your population. On the contrary, it may justly be regarded as a symbol of union. No doubt it is absolutely desirable that for purposes of business or of social intercourse each should study to understand and to speak the language of the other with facility; and that remark, as you have probably observed, conveys a hint to myself which I hope to profit by; but the recognition of each other's language as a matter of courtesy is, when rightly considered, a thing to cherish and be proud of. For it declares the great and noble principle that, no matter what may be our language, we all enjoy equally by the charter of our citizenship the rights and privileges of that constitution. It records the fact that its principle and its practice are fundamental throughout the British Empire. It records the fact that when French Canada became part of that Empire her people received a guarantee of the application of that principle; and ever since they have been firm in their loyalty and in their attachment to the British connection.

It is when thus regarded, gentlemen, that, I submit, we must recognize that the practice is in full accord with the spirit of Christian civilization and of humanity. It is from that point of view that I venture to commend the practice in question. And all history, all experience of human nature, declare in trumpet tones that any attempt, however honest and sincere in its aim, to check or abolish a privilege of this kind, will inevitably tend to an effect opposite to that which is desired.

Gentlemen, what we need more than unity of language is unity of purpose; and in what? Surely in the grand, sacred work of building up and confirming the fortunes of this fair land; and if this is to be done we must be inspired by what has justly been described as a broad and unselfish patriotism—a patriotism which, while maintaining the fullest right to individual opinion and expression, will yet be prepared to subordinate personal predilections or interests, and especially the insidious promptings of partizanship, when needed, in order to forward a common cause.

Once more I ask you to accept thanks for this address and my earnest good wishes for your welfare, and for your success in guarding and promoting the municipal affairs of this great city.

NEW BOARD OF TRADE.

Formal Opening by Lord Aberdeen.

His Excellency the Governor-General formally opened the new buildings of the Montreal Board of Trade on Wednesday afternoon. An immense crowd assembled in and around the building and by 2 o'clock the Exchange Hall and surrounding galleries were literally packed.

A double file of the Royal Scots was drawn up on each side of the main entrance. Shortly after 2 o'clock His Excellency and Lady Aberdeen, accompanied by Professor Drummond, Lieut-Governor Chapleau, Hon. Jno. S. Hall and Solicitor-General Curran arrived and were received in the Council of the Board.

They were conducted to the Exchange Hall, where an address of welcome was read and presented by Senator Ogilvie. Lord Aberdeen replied briefly, thanking them for the reception and at the close of his remarks he formally declared the Board of Trade building open.

The Hon. J. J. Curran then spoke shortly on the trade of Canada and was followed by Mr. J. D. Wright, president of the Chicago Board of Trade and others.

Among the visitors from other places were:—W. R. Wilkie, president Toronto Board of Trade; Mr. Robertson, president St. John's Board of Trade; Wm. Kemble, president Boston Chamber of Commerce; Geo. Richardson, president Kingston Board of Trade, and Sir Wm. Dawson.

AN IRISH WELCOME.

A genuine Irish welcome was extended to Lord and Lady Aberdeen by the Irish people of Montreal on Thursday morning. The function came off in the Windsor Hall, and the St. Patrick's Society, headed by Hon. James McShane, its president, with his insignia of office, had the arrangements in hand. In spite of the unfavorable hour nearly three hundred citizens were present. Among them were: Hon. James McShane, Senator Murphy, Ald. P. Kennedy, M.P.P., Ald. Tansey, B. Tansey,

Owen McGarvey, P. J. Coyle, Q.C., J. K. Foran, editor of THE TRUE WITNESS, J. H. Semple, B. J. Coghlin, Judge Barry, Judge Foster, E. J. Duggan, James Sheridan, sr., Robert Acton, John Phoenix, B. Connaughton, John Hoolahan, T. Flynn, Sam Cross, M. Delahanty, M. Carroll, D. Martin, P. Kelly, James Meek, J. McIntyre, P. Coghlan, J. J. Ryan, Michael Donovan, T. J. O'Neill, Geo. Carpenter, Richard King, T. C. O'Brien, Felix Callaghan, Christopher Egan, John Campbell, J. O'Shaughnessy, Michael Farrell, John Bannon, P. McKeown, M. C. Foley, Peter McCaffrey, James O'Shaughnessy, J. P. Nugent, Thomas Styles, John Lynch, C. A. McDonnell, M. P. Malone, and A. E. Fairbairn, of St. Mary's Y. M. C. S., Gerald Egan, M. Roach, P. E. McCaffrey, J. E. Mullin, Francis Brennan, Michael McCready, Frank Gormully and Wm. Mansfield.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen entered the Hall shortly after eleven o'clock, and were received with loud cheers. The Countess wore Irish ornaments on her dress. Both were escorted to the platform, and being seated, Mr. McShane read the following address:

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada and Vice-Admiral of the same, etc.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—The members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, the oldest Irish Catholic Association for national and benevolent purposes in this province, deem it their duty, on your arrival in this Dominion to assume the high office which has been conferred upon you by Her Majesty, to approach your Excellency and most respectfully tender you a heartfelt welcome. A long line of distinguished noblemen, many of them Irishmen by birth, have already filled the office of Governor-General of Canada, but none of your predecessors had an equal claim to a welcome here from the children of our race.

A distinguished member of an ancient family of Scottish noblemen, you have given the strongest proof of attachment to the land of our forefathers. Your Excellency will find amongst Her Majesty's subjects over whom you are called to rule in this Dominion a very large proportion of Irish Catholics. Everywhere under the beneficent form of government that we have the privilege to enjoy in Canada you will find them and their descendants prosperous and happy and enjoying a fair representation in the government of the country, as well as in its municipal institutions and having achieved for themselves enviable positions in the professional, agricultural, commercial and manufacturing industries and in every avenue of life. Nowhere more than in the city of Montreal will this be apparent to Your Excellency, and whilst enjoying all these benefits and possessing these privileges in common with our fellow-subjects of other origins, there is no section of the community more devotedly attached to the institutions of our country than the people on whose behalf we speak to-day.

Whilst addressing Your Excellency in the language of gratitude for your past services, we cannot forget that to Lady Aberdeen the Irish race, not only in the old land, but everywhere, is under a deep debt of gratitude for her great efforts in their behalf, and for her untiring interest in every work tending to promote the benefit of the Irish people and to bring out the resources of Ireland and make them known to the world at large.

Whilst extending to Your Excellency our warmest thanks, permit us to request you to convey to Her Ladyship the sincerest welcome of Irish Canadian hearts.

Our prayer is that the sojourn of Your Excellency amongst us may be such as to add lustre, if possible, to a name already so illustrious, that your days in Canada may be of unalloyed happiness, and that you may carry back at the end of your term of office in this Dominion the conviction that Irishmen under responsible government are as contented, as law-abiding and as loyal a people as can be found in the British Empire.

Signed, on behalf of St. Patrick's Society,
JAMES MCSHANE, President,
SAMUEL CROSS, Secretary.

Montreal, Sept. 23, 1893.

At the conclusion of the address Mr. McShane said: "Your Excellencies will understand that this is not a convenient hour for the mass of the people. If this reception had taken place in the evening there would have been twenty thousand people." (Applause.) During the reading of the address when the name of the Countess was first mentioned every man in the hall rose to his feet, and three enthusiastic cheers were given, which Her Ladyship suitably acknowledged.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

His Excellency, speaking impromptu, made the following reply, the most salient features of which were loudly applauded:

"Mr. McShane and Gentlemen,—I offer to you most cordial thanks for this address, in which with characteristic heartiness you have extended to us the assurance of your welcome and of your good wishes on our entering upon the duties of the high position to which we have been called in Canada. I can assure you, gentlemen, that I have listened, and Lady Aberdeen has listened, I am sure, with deep gratification to the assurances thus eloquently conveyed in the address which has just been read. When you spoke of the manner in which Irishmen throughout the Dominion may be found taking their part, and no small part, in the public concerns of the country, and

at the same time displaying their aptitude as colonists and settlers throughout the country, I confess that the feeling of satisfaction with which I listened to such a statement was not mingled with much surprise, because in whatever part of the world I have travelled I have observed that Irishmen are to be found showing by their energy, and by their readiness to adapt themselves to the surroundings in which they find themselves placed, the peculiar fitness and capacity which they have for promoting the welfare of the communities in which their lot is cast. But none the less gratifying, though not surprising, is it to us to find such a striking proof of these qualities as is to be observed, as you have justly mentioned, in the Dominion of Canada. To you, gentlemen, as a representative body of Irishmen, I beg to express the earnest wish that this disposition and this useful characteristic on the part of those of Irish nationality may long continue, and more abound. With regard to the portion of the address in which you make more special reference to Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, I do not think I need stop to confer with Her Excellency prior to making allusion to those utterances on your part, because I know very well that her request to me would be to say as much as possible about Ireland and the Irish, and as little as possible about herself. But, indeed, gentlemen, when you attribute to Lady Aberdeen a constant and earnest, and I may say devoted desire and purpose to do whatever is within her power to promote in any way the welfare, the interests and the happiness of the people of Ireland, you are only assuming that which is correct and true. I think probably you have all heard something of an association which more particularly has been the medium through which Lady Aberdeen's efforts have been displayed. I refer to the

IRISH INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION.

I confess that the more I have observed and pondered upon the capabilities of such an association, the more I am impressed by its far-reaching usefulness and importance, and already in the operations of this association there has been abundant proof of its practical usefulness. During the year before last no less than two thousand pounds from the depots passed into the pockets of the industrious poor of Ireland. You may have observed that Her Excellency was anxious to correct me lest I should be falling into an error by under-shooting the mark, but I was going on to tell you that the next year the sum was five thousand pounds. But, even when we mention the material results of such a movement, we do not exhaust the interest and the significance of the subject, because we cannot but remember and take note of the fact that to provide an opportunity for the exercise of industrious ingenuity among the cottagers and others in Ireland is a movement which will develop not only well-being in the material sense, but also industry and thrift and character, and I think nobody can have observed the working of this and other kindred associations without being struck and touched, not only by the remarkable capabilities of the Irish for the kind of work to which we were referring—I mean art needle work, hosiery, knitting, weaving and other departments of industrial work, but also with the remarkable readiness with which they seize upon opportunities for making use of the gifts with which they have been endowed in that respect. (Cheers.) Well, gentlemen, having observed as I say the practical outcome of such a movement as this, it is not surprising that Lady Aberdeen and those who are working with her have become enthusiasts in that particular branch of Irish industries and work; and I feel sure that in the kindly demonstration which you have given to Lady Aberdeen to-day, which she, like myself, will always, I am sure, remember with gratitude, you will be also encouraging her to persevere with the endeavor as far as it may be in her power to promote this excellent work; and I feel sure that

NONE OF OUR CANADIAN FRIENDS

even though they are not particularly connected with Ireland, will look otherwise than with approval upon the continuance of her interest in this matter, as it will in no way interfere with the discharge of other duties more directly pertaining to our position. Lastly, gentlemen, I can only express my deep appreciation of the expression of your desire that from the one effectual source of