

and experience add weight to his suggestion, which is of a character that particularly commends itself to the people of Ontario at an epoch such as that through which we are now passing. He urges in his pamphlet the systematic decoration of school-rooms with portraits of leading Canadians and others connected with Canadian history, and pictures representing important places and incidents in our national or provincial life. Her Majesty's portrait is already, as it should be, a familiar object in our schools. From an aesthetic as well as from a patriotic point of view, his suggestion appears to be worthy of adoption throughout the length and breadth of Ontario.

We meet in the closing year of a century which embraces substantially the entire period of growth of the Canadian nation. Indeed Britain's colonial empire is largely the creation of the "wonderful century."

It is interesting and instructive to trace the influence of the pioneers of Upper Canada upon the present condition of the world-wide Empire and the attitude of other nations toward it.

A hundred years ago England had lost her greatest colony, and might be deemed to have almost surrendered her claim to rank as a great colonial power. But what seemed her greatest disaster resulted fortunately for Canada and the empire. "God hath sifted three kingdoms to find the seed for this planting," said the old Puritan divine in describing the settlement of New England. But the thirteen colonies were again sifted for the planting of Upper Canada and the Maritime Provinces. The Loyalists brought with them for the upbuilding of the new nationality much of the best element of the States, the culture, the religion, the civic virtues. Even more important was the fact that they reasserted at tremendous cost to themselves and at a time when the old landmarks were disappearing, the principles of loyalty, of order, of obedience to the law, of attachment to the flag, and above all of the unity of the British race. Tolerant in many things, they were intolerant of lukewarmness toward British connection. "Bent upon vast beginnings," they builded better than they knew. A distinctive imperial character was impressed upon the new provinces, unknown elsewhere on the globe. The testing time came in 1812, when the conquest of Canada would have completed the collapse of Great Britain as a colonial power. But the provinces rang true metal. U. E. L. and French Canadian, and the immigrant from across the sea, fought side by side with the red-coats, few in number as they were that could be spared from England's death-struggle with Napoleon. At Queenston, Stoney Creek,

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