

II.

The spirit of France has come alive on Parliament Hill today. More than three hundred years ago, Samuel de Champlain, the founder of New France, passed within sight of this place on the broad waters of the Ottawa River. In his train came other intrepid Frenchmen, penetrating far into the wilderness of a then-unknown land. Along the newly discovered waterways came priests of the Roman Catholic faith - devout men who were explorers as well as teachers of Christianity. New France became British North America, and British North America was expanded into the Canada of today, stretching from sea to sea. But its broad expanse still bears the impress of the life of many a saintly figure, many a chivalrous spirit, not a few women of character and devotion, who raised up in the New World a new nation.

In our country of two official languages and of many racial stocks, we welcome today with full hearts and with a revived sense of the history of our nation, a stalwart man who speaks to us of France - the Fighting France of today.