

The purpose for which the Committee was appointed being now fulfilled, it remains only to request Your Excellency graciously to crown their work by presenting to the City of Montreal, as a free gift for ever, this representation of our revered and much beloved Queen.

The statue of Florentine bronze is the work of Mr. Marshall Wood.

The names of the contributors to the statue fund are appended to this address, and it is proper to notice that the Mayor and City Council have granted the site and supplied the pedestal.

In soliciting Your Excellency to undertake the duty, which cannot but be a pleasing one, of formally presenting this statue, the Committee venture to hope that as a work of art it may be found worthy of its subject, may be accepted as an ornament and art model by the city, and may long remain an abiding testimonial of the respect and attachment of the citizens of Montreal towards the Royal Lady who rules over the Empire of which the Dominion forms a part.

Montreal, Nov. 19, 1872.

HIS EXCELLENCY then said :

Gentlemen,—It is with a degree of pleasure, very difficult to express in words, that I find myself engaged in the discharge of a duty to appropriate to my office, and so congenial to my feelings, as that which you have imposed upon me to-day. (Cheers.) Among the many circumstances which have made me feel at what a fortunate epoch I have arrived in Canada, by no means the least agreeable is the fact that there should have been reserved to me this opportunity of taking part in a ceremony which evinces, in so marked and general a manner, the unflinching loyalty and affection entertained by the citizens of this large, prosperous and wealthy city to the person and throne of our Sovereign. (Cheers.) It is, therefore, with the most heartfelt satisfaction that I undertake the function now allotted to me, and that I become the momentary depository of this unique and precious gift with which you, gentlemen, the subscribers to the undertaking, are desirous to grace your city, and which you now commission me to hand over as a perpetual ornament to the inhabitants of Montreal and their children forever (applause), and I must say it is to no mean heritage that these future generations will fall heirs, for, thanks to the magic power of sculptor, long after we and those who have loved and honoured Queen Victoria shall have passed away, there will still remain to them and to their descendants, untouched by time, this breathing representation of that open and intelligent regard, that sweet womanly grace and Imperial Majesty, and of respect, which in Her lifetime combined to render the presence of the Queen of England more august than that of any contemporary monarch (loud cheering). It is to you then, citizens of Montreal, that I now turn, it is in your hands that I now place this sacred deposit, it is on you that I lay the charge of guarding for yourselves and those who come after you this fair image of your Queen, this gracious impersonation of the Majesty of Britain, the stately type and pledge of our Imperial unity, the crowned and sceptred symbol of those glorious institutions which we have found to be so conducive to the maintenance of individual liberty, of constitutional freedom and government (loud applause). Gentlemen, it was my good fortune in early life to serve near the person of our Sovereign. At that time no domestic calamity had thrown its ineffaceable shadow across the threshold of Her home. I was then a spectator of Her daily life, its pure joys, its refined and noble occupations, its duties never neglected, but their burdens shared by the tenderest of husbands and most sagacious of friends. It was then that I learned the secret of that hold, Her Majesty possesses over the hearts of Her subjects in every part of her extensive empire, (cheers) and when in later days death had forever shattered the bright vision of Her early happiness, and left Her to discharge alone and unaided, during long years of widowhood in the isolation of an empty palace, the weighty and oppressive functions of Her royal station, renewed opportunities were afforded me of observing with what patience, patriotism and devotion to the public service, Her brave and noble nature bore each burden and discharged each daily task. (Applause). From dissipation, gayeties, the distraction of society, the widowed sovereign may have shrunk, but from duty never. (Loud cheers.) When, therefore, you cast your eyes up to this work of art, let the image of the woman as well as of the Queen be enshrined in your recollections, and let each

citizen remember that, in Her whose sculptured lineaments he now regards, he has an example of prosperity borne with meekness, of adversity with patience, of a path of duty unfalteringly followed, and of a blamelessness of existence which has been a source of pride to every English heart. (Cheers) and whose pure and radiant influence has shed its holy light on a thousand British homes. (Great applause.) Above all let each Canadian patriot remember,—as he contemplates with pride the ever brightening destinies of his native country, let your children's children remember as generation after generation this great Dominion gathers strength and power,—that it was under the auspices and the Government of Her whose statue I now confide unto your keeping, that these mighty provinces were confederated into a still mightier state, and that the foundations of that broad Dominion were laid, which I trust is destined to prove the brightest ornament, and I trust the most powerful adjunct of the Empire of Britain. (Great enthusiasm.) Gentlemen, I thank you again for the opportunity you have given me of taking part in these proceedings, and to those kind expressions which you have addressed to me personally. I feel I can make no better return than by saying that in the discharge of my office in this country it is my desire and hope to follow, at however humble a distance, the example of that beloved Sovereign, who, during a long reign, has faithfully trod in the paths of the British constitution, and has never once failed in her duty to Her Crown, Her Ministers, Her Parliament, or Her people. (Prolonged cheers.)

Addressing the French Canadians in their own language, his Excellency said in effect that it was with great satisfaction that he had assisted at this august ceremony to-day, in which the whole of our citizens had so heartily united. The French were well known for their enterprise, and the spectacle of to-day was very rare, and one which he was very delighted to see—a people united who came from two different nationalities, keeping up their loyalty to the Throne and Government. He knew very well that it was through the French people that the Europeans had been able to penetrate here. They had come, not only to the valley of the St. Lawrence, but up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and it was most remarkable what these pioneers of civilization had accomplished. When they had set forth they had founded towns and settlements, and here they had established the greatest city on the continent, and the centre of a happy and most loyal people. He concluded by thanking them for the kind manner in which they had listened to him. These remarks were made amid the most enthusiastic demonstrations.

The Mayor, in accepting the statue, on behalf of the citizens, said :

*May it please Your Excellency,*

If there were anything that could add to my pleasure in receiving, in the name of the citizens of Montreal, so magnificent a gift as this, it would be the acceptance of it at your Lordship's hands. It was, indeed, a very happy thought of those who wished to adorn one of the leading thoroughfares of our city (Victoria Square) with the statue of our Most Gracious Sovereign, to request your Excellency to be the medium of its formal presentation to the city. It will afford the highest satisfaction to those who have contributed to this object, to learn that in the opinion of one so well qualified to judge the artist has succeeded in accurately delineating the features of our beloved and revered Queen. This large gathering, despite the severity of the weather, will doubtless be construed by your Excellency—and I presume to suggest that such a construction will be perfectly in accord with truth—as an evidence that the citizens of Montreal are thoroughly devoted to her Majesty's throne and person, and eager to avail themselves of every opportunity of giving expression to their deeply seated sentiments of loyalty and affection. Your Excellency has fittingly reminded us of our duty in this respect; but,—speaking for the citizens, one and all, irrespective of nationality or any other distinction that could exist in a mixed community like ours,—I may venture to say that there is nothing which we shall regard with greater pride than the gift which Your Excellency has just presented. Durable as may be the material which the skilled artist has employed, it will not, I am sure, outlive the regard in which the honoured and illustrious personage on the representation of whom that skill has been exercised, is held by those on whose behalf I now speak, and by Canadians for ages to come. Permit me to add to the acknowl-