

more than one hundred years ago there sailed from the port of New York a fleet of English ships bearing with it one of the saddest burdens recorded in history, but one full, also, of lessons of hope and of courage. It was the fleet which carried

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

seeking in the wilderness new homes and political institutions after their own hearts. That was a small part of the total emigration; yet, in the space of a few weeks, twelve thousand souls—men, women and children—sailed from that single port of New York. They were not obscure or unknown people. They were mostly from the educated classes of colonists—owners of property and professional men—but there were people among them of all classes of society. Many of them had served the King in arms. They had fought for a great idea—they were unionists against secessionists and had fought for the organic union of the Anglo-Saxon race. Few of them had approved of the parliamentary measures which precipitated the Revolution; but, in war, only two sides are possible, and they chose that which, in their view, had the better right. They left behind them broad cultivated fields and roomy mansions to begin the world anew in log huts and tents. The fleet carried them to the rocky coasts of Acadia, a name which covers the territory now known as New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. New Brunswick was not known for years after as a separate Province, and but a handful of people were scattered over that immense territory.”

“Other exiles streamed over the northern border of the colonies which had become the United States. They entered what is now the prosperous Province of Ontario, then a wilderness of forest roamed through by scattered bands of Missisauga Indians. Their strong arms and brave hearts supported them in their arduous labours, and they built up in Ontario, as in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, political institutions unsurpassed in the union of freedom with order, by anything which the genius of the Anglo-Saxon race has produced elsewhere. They became farmers in the western province and on the Atlantic coast, they became sailors; or, rather, they continued to be sailors; for the settlers were chiefly from the seaboard colonies; and at this very day, owing to their maritime enterprise and skill, the Dominion of Canada stands fourth among the nations of the world in the registered tonnage of shipping. Thus the loyalists proceeded to clear up a new land for themselves—now the Dominion of Canada.”

“Loyalists! A strange word that—singularly antiquated. For are not all the “enlightened” asking what is loyalty? Why should an illusion of past ages invade the domain of practical politics? These absurd people—these ancestors of ours—only a hundred years ago actually had political principles. Loyalty is the honor of nations—an abstract idea which “disillusionized” people do not apprehend. Practical men sneer at such abstractions, but practical men are, in such matters, the most inconsequential in the whole world. The world is, and always has been, ruled by ideas; for man does not live by bread alone, and nations which lose their ideals disappear, not having any real inner continuity of life. Loyalty in a people is what character is in a