

Western scholars who had knowledge of Eastern literature and thought which compares with the amazing mastery and knowledge of the English tongue and of English and American literature which I find amongst so many of my Indian friends.

There is an Italian proverb, typically adapted by the English for their own use. This is the English adaptation. "Words are the daughters of earth and things are the sons of heaven." May I express the wish that this Conference is rich in the accomplishment of good things. I was born an optimist and in Canada we believe that pessimism is a form of cowardice and optimism is a kind of courage. Perhaps then I can express my hopeful faith that even the fires which rage around us today will prove to have been sacrificial fires and refining fires that will, before many months have passed, cleanse our mother earth. We can hear too the voice of wisdom which tells us that the heavens lie upon all lands and upon all peoples, that shadows only fall because and when the sun is shining, that it is always morning somewhere in the world. We have all set out on a long journey towards an ideal world. As we travel hopefully may I recall for your comfort, as I do for my own, words once written by Robert Louis Stevenson in his essay entitled "Eldorado" "Oh toiling hands of mortals, oh unwearied feet, travelling ye know not whither! Soon, soon, it seems to you, you will come forth upon a conspicuous hilltop and yet a little further against the setting sun descry the spires of Eldorado. Little do ye know your own blessedness! For to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour."

As I thank you for your patient listening and as we all travel hopefully together towards the golden city of our dreams, may I end with a personal memory. Many years ago when I was a young man I read in the London Times the account of the opening of a Salvation Army hostel in the east end of London by a Mohammedan prince of India. He said, "You may wonder how I, an Indian and a Mohammedan, am opening in the east end of London a Christian hostel. My friends," he said, "Truth is like a precious jewel; it has many facets." With that little gem of wisdom to the treasure-house of us all, the Canadian Delegation will give its whole-hearted efforts to the freedom of your deliberations and the wisdom of your conclusions.

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