

its great cities and great railway systems, back of its mountains and rivers, back of Yorktown and Saratoga and Lexington and Bunker Hill, back of the Declaration of Independence, and is it possible that we find its source on that sacred spot where Wolfe fell and Ramezay handed the keys of Quebec to his victorious successors? Is this history or is it romance? If history it gives additional significance to my argument, if romance we need not refer to Walter Scott or Victor Hugo for a more fascinating tale.

Then what about the significance of the contest on the Plains of Abraham to Great Britain. First, it revealed to her in a most conclusive manner the advantage of naval supremacy. When Admiral Saunders, with 277 ships of the line and 60,000 soldiers, set sail for America for the conquest of Canada it was evident to the whole world that without the command of the sea no nation need aspire to universal sovereignty. And since that day, although occasionally disputed, her naval pre-eminence has been honourably maintained and Nelson and Trafalgar have become more than a rhetorical expression. Is there not a lesson to Canada in this overmastering circumstance?

Second. The taking of Quebec practically laid the foundation of her Colonial Empire. Except a slender foot-hold in India, the British possessions elsewhere were comparatively insignificant. Australia and New Zealand, although discovered, had no appreciable value except as a shelter from offended justice. She owned a few of the West Indies Islands and Prince Rupert's Land in North America, and seemed to be satisfied. But with the possession of Quebec the idea of a Colonial Empire fastened itself upon British statesmen, and from that date forward, whenever new territory could be obtained or minor possessions enlarged, she pushed her conquests as well as her commerce, until now she occupies one-quarter of the habitable globe. Had she failed in the conquest of Canada who can tell what would have been the effect upon her aspirations and her territorial expansion.

Third. It was not enough for Great Britain that she should command the commerce of the Seven seas nor that she should extend her colonial possessions, but it was vital that in the councils of Europe her prestige should be maintained. Prussia was asserting herself under Frederick the Great, Austria had undoubted influence as one of the greatest powers of Central Europe, Russia was emerging from the obscurity of centuries and Spain was still a force to be reckoned with. Outside the continent of Europe she had little to fear be-