

to the latest of their successors of all nations. It is expected that beside the Norseman's undecked shallop and the quaint caravels of Columbus (loaned as there is reason to hope by the authorities of the Field Columbian Exhibition) there may float in the waters of Toronto Bay a reproduction of the little Matthew, in which Cabot, commissioned by Henry VII. and equipped by the merchants of Bristol, first ventured the tempestuous waters of the North Atlantic.

Next will be loan collections of portraits and pictures, clothing, weapons, models and works of art, arranged also in rooms or divisions according to periods, which will bring back to life as nearly as possible, before modern eyes, the presences and ways of life of the great personages who directed the political events of four centuries and also those who contributed as advisers and subjects to the gradual development of modern civilization, scientific, religious, industrial and social, of which we inherit the latest fruits.

In a distinct and honored series will appear memorials of the men and measures which have built up the present constitution of Canada: from the great soldiers of France and England who beat the first rude shape with stirring clash of steel, to the latest of the native or adopted Canadian statesmen, to whose genius and persistence Canada owes her glorious liberties, as one of many free nations constituting the British Empire.

Canadian Natural History will also have a place.

An effort will be made to assemble and arrange for inspection in a series, existing collections from all parts of the country, illustrating at one consecutive glance the geology, flora and fauna of the Dominion; showing its varied climes and regions, from the mild Pacific provinces, to those rugged but richly endowed shores that confront the breakers of the Atlantic.

Of congresses and ceremonies it is not necessary to speak at length at

this stage, with one important exception.

As soon as the Commission is constituted, it will be asked to consider steps towards convening an Imperial Constitutional Conference, which is foreshadowed in the Act obtained from the legislature.

The elements of that important and successful Colonial Conference which took place at Ottawa, may be once more reassembled, together with an even broader representation of the historical and constitutional learning and thought of the self-governing provinces and colonies of the Empire. The time is ripe for the holding of such a conference, to take advantage of the increased disposition to confirm and develop the unity of the Empire; and the assemblage, while most interesting in itself, may possibly be one that will take its place amongst the the great Constitutional congresses of history.

Now as to the method by which all these plans may be set in motion.

It is to be hoped that the local field of Canada may be rapidly and effectively covered by a wide-spread co-operation of individual zeal, so that the committee may be able to announce to foreign Governments that sufficient material is coming forward to form the basis of an important exhibition. With an established nucleus of attraction, we may hope to have it complemented by loan exhibits from foreign countries, which must exist in quantity and value largely surpassing what is obtainable in Canada. England alone, from its National Portrait Gallery, and the treasures of its innumerable country mansions, will prove a mine of vast wealth, for the purposes of this illustrative exhibition of the history of the past four centuries. A section of the committee in London has already been commissioned to initiate efforts in this direction.

Local Exhibits of pictorial and other materials, towards a successful demonstration of Canadian history and

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