

## YOUNG CANADIANS TO THE FRONT.

## A MONUMENT TO CHAMPLAIN.

We are now opening our eyes to the greatness of our country and to the greatness of our indebtedness to all who have served it. No name in the service of our beloved land is more brilliant than that of Champlain, the discover, the explorer, the founder of Quebec. Young people love men that are brave and bold and daring, and Champlain's name should be dear to them. How our boys would have gloried had they been with him, sailing up nameless rivers, meeting parties of Indians, and mapping out new villages and towns!

Many a time have we thought of building him a monument. But we have not done it yet. We are going to do it now, and our young Canadians are going to help. We shall all give our brick, and carry it to the spot. *Our* names shall not be left out in the cold.

Twelve years ago a meeting was held in Quebec when a gentleman well-known for his patriotic love made the proposal. All this time the proposal has been simmering. Now it has come to boiling point. A number of very influential gentlemen have formed themselves into a committee to erect the monument. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec is at the head; and the Prime Minister of the Province, the Mayor of Quebec, and a large list of Judges, Clergy and merchants, have handed in their names. His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau has given a handsome sum, and the project is enthusiastically started. All nationalities are joining



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hands to make the monument worthy of Canada, and worthy of the great man and of the great deeds we want to honour and remember.

It is not easy to choose a site for a great monument, and the site for Champlain's is no exception to the rule. So many things have to be thought of. It must be in a position if possible associated with Champlain. It must be on ground not likely to be built closely round. It must command distance, and it must have harmony in its surroundings. The choice in Quebec lies now between two positions. One is facing the Basilica. In



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connection with this site there is no objection. The City Council has purchased of the Provincial Government this portion, where it is proposed to build the City Hall. By the terms of this purchase three monuments were to be erected, and Champlain's was one. Naturally therefore, the monument should be put there. But there is another spot where it seems more desirable and more suitable to have it, and that is where stood the official residence of Champlain when he was Governor of Quebec, the old historic Chateau St. Louis, now known as Dufferin Terrace, high up on the cliff, and commanding a sweep of the river and the country for many miles. The Rev. Abbé Casgrain and other competent authorities believe that the ashes of the illustrious gentleman repose there.

However the Committee appointed to attend to this will decide what is best—meantime it is our duty to show them what we mean to do. Now what do we mean to do? The monument is to be built. It must be one worthy of us all. It will cost about \$20,000. The Scottish people loved Sir Walter Scott so much that they built him one that cost \$80,000. And Sir Walter never did for Scotland what Champlain did for Canada. This \$20,000 must be collected. Quebec cannot pay it all. She should not. We must all have our share in the honour, however small. The Young Canadian is happy that it can help on such a truly national and necessary project. Young hands, young feet, and young purses can do a great deal. Young tongues can tell so pathetically. Young faces can plead so bewitchingly. Young hands look so soft and plump and inviting when held out to be filled. Would it not be grand if young Canadians could induce these great and influential gentlemen of the committee to give Young Canada a slab, a tablet, or a figure all for themselves. Here's how it would look.

To all time it would stand as a humble but loving witness of our admiration of bravery, endurance, determination, and high motive. Let us begin. Go at once. Choose out first your own one cent, five cents, or fifty cents. Next run,—fly to your cousin, your uncle, your friend, and we shall soon see what can be done. First one plump hand shall be filled; then the other; then your satchel will be called out, and perhaps even that won't be enough. Meantime I have written to the committee of grandees in Quebec to ask how we can best do what we want to do.

THE EDITOR.