

pare for yourselves regrets by taking from them the few moments which nature has given them. As soon as they can feel the pleasures of existence, allow them to enjoy it and at whatever hour God may summon them, see to it that they do not die before they have tasted life." Make childhood a happy time is the burden of each. Yes a happy useful character building time. Not as Rousseau would have it, a return to nature, but by rational training along the lines where we have advanced from and gone beyond nature, let us develop the child's moral character. We could not return to nature if we would because by heredity we are born in advance of nature. How wittily Voltaire criticized Rousseau's appeal to nature, when he wrote to him, "I have received your new book against the human race, and I thank you for it. Never has anyone employed as much genius to make us beasts. When one reads your book he is seized with a desire to go down on all fours."

We must help the children to form a good moral character. The three great factors that enter into the question of character building are heredity, environment and education. We see the struggle of these in the child emigration problem, a question which is becoming more perplexing every day. We are coming to see that environment and education are not strong enough to overcome heredity in respect to many forms of vice. There is no shadow of a doubt that, as some one has said, a child's moral education should be begun a hundred years before it was born. We might go even further back than that. What are we the better by being born Canadians, an offshot of the great English race? What does Emerson mean by his English traits? What are we to understand by national traits of character? We mean those peculiarities of character that have been passed in from father to son, from generation to generation, accentuated in the first instance by environment and education and receiving additional force from the same causes as time passed on, until these characteristics of the individual become the traits of the nation. Offshoots from the English race as Americans and Canadians have acquired new traits or modifications of old traits—for better or for worse. Let us cherish the English traits that have made England such a nation as she is. We are Canadians and have a magnificent environment. Let us advance along the lines that have made our parent country great and crush out the faults that