

The opening prayer was made by the Rev. J. C. Garrett, the Vice President, after which His Honor, Sir Mortimer Clark, made an address first congratulating the Society on the building and its contents and briefly reviewed the events of the last fifty years in Canada showing how a feeling of loyalty had been developed and fostered by the events of the war of 1812, the Trent affair and the Boer war thus binding together Canada and the Mother Country. He emphasized the importance of historical societies and the value to the young of such an object lesson as the contents of this room would be. He spoke of the changes he had seen since coming to the country in 1859 and of the greater interest in historical research and of the stronger feeling of patriotism a new spirit seemed to control the people of to day and we were living in the midst of the awaking of a new life. Newcomers not understanding our government and knowing little of Canadian history were apt to overlook the work of those who had brought about the present condition of a settled country and people who were loyal subjects of the British Empire. Niagara was the Mecca for tourists. The Niagara peninsula had been made sacred by the blood of those who fought and died, whose brave deeds are an inspiration to all and who should be honored by all. The three places of greatest historic interest in Canada were Louisburg, Quebec and Niagara. Young people should be brought to Memorial Hall and there taught the history of their forefathers and that Canada was part of a great Empire. Imperialism spread the knowledge of British law which stood for civil liberty. An Imperialist was not one who was always "bagging some one to tread on the tail of his coat." It was important to preserve all links with the past that the young should be brought in touch with it.

The Lieutenant Governor then declared the building open. A telegram was read from Hon. A. Nelson Monteith, the Minister of Agriculture, expressing his regret at not being able to be present. A letter was read by the President from John Ross Robertson expressing his kind wishes as follows:

Dear Miss Carnochan:—

I regret exceedingly that I am unable to be with you tomorrow afternoon at the opening of the new building, were it not for important business that detains me in Toronto I should have set aside every other consideration and taken part in doing honor to yourself and the friends who have so generously assisted in installing the new Historical Building in the old town of Niagara.

Let me assure you that although I am not present with you in person I am with you in spirit, and trust that your opening function