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## CANADIAN HISTORY.

### The Brock Monument.

Monuments are a nation's landmarks. Nations have disappeared without leaving to posterity a written history to keep alive the memory of their sons and the glory of their actions; their existence would now be unknown, and the traveller would pass unconsciously over the tombs of the Asiatic conquerors or Egyptian Kings did not the lofty column or massive pyramid, palace of the dead, tell of actions there performed or of potentates and conquerors buried beneath. In the deserts of the East where moving sands now cover once fertile regions and where a few crumbling walls mark the sites of once flourishing cities, whose names are not inscribed on papyrus or on leaden tablets, the head of some sphynx or curiously engraved funeral urn, throw light on the events of a kingdom shrouded in the night of antiquity. Were there not such monuments as the obelisk and the needle, we of the time of the steam engine and magic wire could form no idea of the progress of the arts in the dominions of the Pharaohs and the skill of man at that remote epoch; we should perhaps look with disdain upon the peoples of the past, be inclined to think that we had reached a state of civilisation before unknown, unheard, unthought of, did not the surprising works exciting every day the admiration of the explorers of antiquities, moderate our pride in making us despair of ever equalling the mighty works of the unaided hand of man, which have survived the ruin of empires, the convulsions of nature, the effacing fingers of destructive time, and that have transmitted and will transmit to distant ages the memories of statesmen, warriors and kings. A monument is the symbol of the lofty aspirations of the immortal spirit, which tends beyond its habitation of to day, and wishes to outlive the span of its mortal career; it is the testimony of a people's gratitude, and the only meet tribute it can pay to those who have sacrificed their lives on the altar of their country's love; it is the only worthy gift they durst offer to those elevated minds, who overcoming the weakness of nature, have suffered hardships and given their lives to preserve their existence. The patriot or the warrior obtains for his citizens prosperous days, or drives from them the invading foe and preserves them as a people; to that patriot or to that warrior is erected a monument, which shall long keep alive his memory and transmit his fame to coming ages. There is a simple sublimity in a monument: a

few piled stones the emblem of immortality! A country always thinks with fond regret of the children who died in her defence or defended her cause; she wishes that they should ever live in her midst, but unable to give them perpetual life she confers on them undying fame and over enduring immortality; she engraves their name on a stone, which points to the spot where took place an action, which her children may admire and learn to emulate. It is related of the elder Cato, who gave his leisure moments to the education of his children, that to inspire them with the patriotic fires of the Roman, to impart to them a knowledge of the heroes whose achievements were the admiration of the ancients and excite wonder at the present day, he drew pictures representing the dauntless bravery of Cocles, and superhuman fortitude of Scævola; he led them round the environs of Rome and shewed the places rendered memorable by battle or steady retreat. He, considered by the great intellects of the Augustan era, as the model of a citizen, thought no better instruction could be given youth than in teaching it the history of Rome, and exciting admiration for its defenders. There is no greater incentive to glory, nothing more fecund in great thoughts, than the scene afforded by the actions of great men, and the grateful remembrance of their country. Then, my readers, ye men of pedagogic lore, resolute handlers of the birch, and lights of the young children who come to learn from your mouths the first lessons of knowledge, and sip from the cup you have prepared for them, their first draught from the refreshing well of science inspire them with the love of Canada, our native soil, make them acquainted with all the historic associations time has twined around this land; ye need not lead them to distant climes to shew them sublime spectacles and beautiful landscapes, open but the page of our history and on it you will find grand and delightful scenes and stirring events to excite their active curiosity.

We write for the teacher, and our ambition is that our writings may please, interest and instruct him, and smooth the rough path his avocations lead him into. We shall then relate in few and simple words an episode not without importance in the history of Canada, and which occurred during the war of 1812, so prolific in good results for the Lower Province. It was at the opening of this war that the French Canadians showed their generosity in forgiving the injuries they had suffered under the administration of the tyrannic Craig, by becoming the staunch defenders of Britain, and displaying under the English flag the bravery, which in former times, they had shown when marching to battle with the infantry of France. Many places obtained at that time a local celebrity for deeds worthy of being more generally known. The Americans had imagined that they could take Canada without soldiers, and that they could as easily command it as England did the Ocean. The Voltigeurs and the gallant officers of the french militia, in whose veins coursed the generous blood of the french chivalry roused the Upper Canadians to follow their example and quickly shewed the invaders that they had no puny foes to contend with (1).

(1) Montgomery Martin—The British Colonies.