

Canada, but such as are coming to occupy, in a constantly enlarging measure, the attention of all civilized countries. They are conflicts to be settled by reason, not by arms; battles in the air, rather than upon the solid earth.

Those who have made some study of past Canadian history, and who are at the same time alive to the events and changes going on around them, will agree without much difficulty that a moment of great interest, one which may perhaps be properly regarded as a turning-point, has arrived in our national career. We have seen within the last twelve months an unprecedented assemblage, representing the world-wide citizenship of our great modern Empire, holding its sittings at our national capital. We have seen it preparing great undertakings, of imperial moment and in an imperial spirit. Partly as a consequence of that assemblage, advancing contentions are being asserted, some on behalf of Canada, some on behalf of other colonies, some on behalf of the colonies as a whole, which must tend at no long date to a definite and logical ordering of this vast series of communities upon the basis of equal rights and mutual interests. A few weeks ago a vast assemblage took part in dedicating in the city of Toronto an effigy, in enduring bronze, of a statesman, whom all Canada acknowledged to be worthy of such honor: a man for whom Time, perhaps, has predestined a yet more lasting monument. More than any other one man in our history he contributed, by his patriotism, and his persistence in a farsighted policy, to preparing the place for Canada, within the Empire and before the world, which she is now on the point of assuming. It is perceived that the formative epoch is rapidly closing. A definitely new scene is opening, bringing, with larger prospects, the duty of appreciating them gravely, though hopefully.

Who, contemplating this remarkable

evolution, and attaching value to its results, can fail to grant a high degree of historic interest and national importance to that discovery of the Gulf of St. Lawrence by John Cabot, which laid the basis for the British claims to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New England, and Virginia, and which, at the same time, pointed the way to French colonization and explorations in the interior?

In less than three years we shall reach the end of the fourth century from the date of John Cabot's auspicious discovery. In what manner can we best show our recognition of its importance as an event in history, and of our indebtedness to it as the foundation of our existence as a nation, one of the constituents of an empire of free and happy nations. Scarcely a monument exists to recall Cabot and his deeds to our recollection. Cabot himself seems to have shown unusual modesty in exercising the privileges of a discoverer. With the exception of giving, according to the pious custom of the times, a name to St. John's Isle in honor of the saint on whose day the isle was discovered, and also noting the name of Baccalios upon the coast of Newfoundland, as a record of the abundance of fish in that locality, John Cabot seems to have refrained from attaching any names to the places he was the first to see or touch at. His own name was not perpetuated upon the scene of his explorations, either by himself or any of his successors.

The industrious, patriotic and scholarly first Governor of Upper Canada, seems to have been the first to recognize the duty England owed to the memory of the discoverer of British North America. By his direction the name of Cabot's Head was placed upon the map of Upper Canada by the Surveyor-General at the close of the last century. The north-western extremity of the western peninsula of Ontario, still known by that designation, was, perhaps, as fitting a single