

*The President of France*

of France on this very hill at the boundary of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the meeting place of forces, young and eager, English and French, the union of which has created your nation, which increases in strength and grandeur every day and constitutes an immense human treasure for the future.

Sons of the British isles, sons of France, what a magnificent example is given to the world, what a long path travelled together!

Great Britain and France—how long we struggled and fought! But in those hard and often long battles there never appeared the slightest divergence in our conceptions of life, in our forms of civilization. The reconciliation has been complete, and together we may admire today this vigorous Canadian nation which is the expression, diversified but united, of the genius of the two races.

The meeting of our spirits has begotten your spirit. And this spirit, illuminated with idealism, guides you toward a magnificent future. The two ancient peoples, their rivalries forgotten, are proud to recognize something of themselves in your common fidelity, and to find themselves rejuvenated and more closely united by your extraordinary ascent. They are moved to see Montaigne and Shakespeare preside over your debates in common respect for human dignity and common love of liberty.

Mr. Speaker of the Senate, I beg you to accept, as a Canadian of French origin, the message of friendship I am bringing to the faithful guardians of the French language and culture. They prove that in a solid national unity like yours you nevertheless cherish, as we do in France, the memory of your origins, and you perpetuate the Christian and human civilization that France was the first to bring to you. Your history, as a matter of fact, is in some ways our history. As Maurice Barrès has described it, "You have, as we did in France, reached the highway through bypaths, and you remain assembled beneath your banners". And those banners are always worthy of your love.

It is to you, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, that I address my message of friendship for the English-speaking Canadians, whose origin reminds us that Great Britain, also defender of the right, knew how to "beget consciences" and carry the flag of honour everywhere. A few months ago the world mourned the loss of a great Canadian statesman and a great democrat who, even in the darkest days, always affirmed his faith in the destiny of France. I pay respectful homage to the memory of William Lyon

Mackenzie King, one of the principal artisans of the common victory of the allies. As our poet Rutebeuf has said, "He was not one of those friends that the wind carries away when it howls around the door".

I greet also the Prime Minister, whose visit to Paris permitted us to admire his fine spirit and generous heart. I greet his colleagues of the government, and also, if you will permit it to an old opponent, the parliamentary opposition.

And now, gentlemen, I take this occasion to tell you that at this very hour the whole of France joins with you and with me in paying homage to the sacred memory of thousands of Canadians who, in the course of two world wars, fought and fell for the liberty of the world; and to their families and to their surviving comrades I bring our affectionate greetings and grateful sympathy.

At Vimy, where a memorial reminds us of their legendary heroism, at Tilloy, at Dieppe, at Bretteville-sur-Laize, at Beny-sur-Mer and in so many other places which speak of their courage, France, whose heart beat faster when she saw them parade through her towns, now tenderly watches over their eternal rest.

Finally, to the people of Canada I express the enduring friendship of France, our gratitude for all they have done for our liberation, and also for that inexhaustible generosity which, under the impetus of national and private organizations, has been lavish in its help to relieve the misery of our people exhausted by war and a long and awful oppression.

In this world which becomes every day smaller and smaller, and where the interdependence of nations is a fact, you have understood that our destinies are just the same, and that there are not for man, whether in the midst of storm or the calm of peace, several conceptions of virtue and honour.

Of this vital solidarity I never heard a more concise definition than that which I heard on the radio in a small mountain chalet where I had taken refuge after my confinement in prison, when I fled from the oppressor before my departure for London. "World prosperity, like security, is indivisible". They were the words of Mackenzie King. They must always be our common motto.

France, being the first country on the road of invasions and battles, knows perhaps better than anyone that security is indivisible. If