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EDUCATION.\*

BY PRESIDENT SIR DANIEL WILSON, LI D., F.R.S.E.

THUS we see a silver lining to the cloud that seemed for a time to gather over us with portentous gloom. Stimulated to increased energy, and encouraged by the generous sympathy that our calamity has called forth, our aim is now to place the University on a footing adequate to the great work that lies before it; and to the requirements of our young Dominion, only now entering on the occupation of the vast territory out of which is to be fashioned a Greater Britain, worthy of the motherland through whom its title is derived. How much yet remains for us to do in the very initial stage of development may be inferred from the conclusion arrived at by Dr. George Dawson, after years of exploration as a member of the Geological Survey service, that there is still an area of fully 500,000 square miles east of the MacKenzie River, lying within the line of the great fertile belt, of which as yet we know less than of the interior of Africa.

The teeming populations of the Old World look with longing eyes to this land of promise, with its millions of acres needing only willing hands to make them yield golden harvests; while the student of history turns with eager expectancy, from ransacking the buried records of decayed monarchies, to survey a virgin continent on which the British colonist has already sketched out prospective States: The Saskatchewan, the Alberta, the Keewatin, the Assinaboia, and the Athabaska of the twentieth century. It is on those who are now in training in our Universities; who are being equipped and armed, by high culture and wise discipline, for the work that lies before them; that in no small degree it will depend whether or not the sanguine dream of the philosophic idealist shall be realized; and:—

There shall be sung another golden age,  
The rise of empire, and of arts;  
Inspiring history's illumined page  
By wisest heads and noblest hearts.

The opening up of this vast wilderness as a new centre of civilization

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\* Part of Address at the Convocation of the University of Toronto, Oct. 1, 1890.