

by the elements of material greatness, how reasonably may we expect a great future for Canada! The idea of vastness and indefinable greatness is everywhere thrust upon you, as you traverse this land. With the impression still fresh, I cannot but speak of the almost overwhelming effect produced by the grandeur of the natural features of this country. I shall not regret that I first entered Canada by its majestic river. It is a fit portal for so great a country. Sailing for days together with the shore only dimly visible on either hand, and the ship but a minute speck on the vast expanse, one could well realize the feelings of the first navigators who looked with awe upon its mysterious greatness. How vast must that country be that ceaselessly pours this mighty flood into the Ocean! And how fully realized must this have been, when the inland seas, like the ventricles of a heart, of which the St. Lawrence is the main artery, was opened up, and the boundless plains and forests were explored! If England owes much of her greatness to the ocean that surrounds her shores, and which serves as a highway to other lands, how much more highly favored is this country, when she has not merely a sea without, but vast seas within, inviting the transport of the treasures of inexhaustible regions of agricultural and mineral wealth!

But why do I allude to these elements of material greatness? Is it that this country must necessarily bear on its soil a people correspondingly great? The law of correlation demands no such necessary result. The history of the Red Indian is a sufficient illustration. This child of nature knew not the greatness of the country in which his race was cradled, and caught none of its influence. There must be a moral and intellectual development in man before the moulding influence of the country in which he lives can be felt, and then may we expect that the development may have the stamp of the country's character. The mere mechanical force of the gardener will not make the young shoot grow into a matured branch of requisite form. The vital force of the tree must combine with the external power applied. There must be life within, as well as a mechanical force without. A dead shoot will not grow into a gracefully curved branch. In like manner, unless there be an independent progressive life in a people, the country will not force its greatness upon them, but with the life within, and the moulding influence without, there will be a process of action and

reaction which must necessarily lead to the fulfilment of a nation's destiny.

This leads me to the value of collegiate institutions, as calculated to foster the inward life of a people, and fit them to take advantage of the material elements of greatness around them. The Universities in the middle ages were as lights amidst the universal darkness, and to them are we mainly indebted for preserving Europe from barbarism. The first settlers in a new country have, almost necessarily, a struggle for subsistence, and while this stern necessity exists, little advance can be looked for; and when it is long continued, a progressive degradation may ensue, so that the rude trapper may differ but little from the Indian who disputes with him the hunting-ground of his tribe. Even after the stern necessities of Nature are vanquished, it may be long before a people emancipate themselves from the sole dominion of commerce and agriculture. The cultivation of learning and the fine arts will be regarded as superfluous luxuries, and only such education will be valued as bears immediately upon material interests. But the loftiest type of national character cannot be acquired, while the cultivation of the higher parts of man's nature is over-looked. Nay even the material greatness of a nation cannot be fully developed while there is an incomplete and unharmonious education of the mental powers. It is apt to be overlooked, that there is nothing more profitable to a nation than intellectual culture. It is mind that confers on matter its highest value. Wherein lies the marvel of that miracle of engineering skill, the spanning of the St. Lawrence by the Victoria bridge? It is not in its stupendous piers, not in the hollow metallic masses, forming the highway, but in the mental power that conceived that magic feat. It is in the wizard power of cultivated genius, that deals with rude matter as a plaything, and forces the stubborn mass to assume forms and positions most alien to its nature. In the revolutions of the governor of the steam-engine and the alternate strokes of the piston, we see the triumphs of mind over matter, and a triumph of the most profitable kind. In such a case as this, the profit is most obvious, but in all cases of mental cultivation, the profit is as real, though not so direct. Take, for example, the general cultivation of mind which the legislators and governors of a country require. How unprofitable are the services of unenlightened and uneducated men who have the resources of a country at their command!

One fat
single w
may squ
years.

The
instead
mark o
them. I
for dev
country
the Uni
country
to whic
point.

It can
so many
establis
ca. It
Canada
stitution
ought to
wants.
objectio
her Coll
Universi
handful
populati
much r
much le
immense
ment of
ricd.
largely
the soil
by the c
leges an
of the
acquired
World
populat

But,
me dire
me, in r
which
studies.
general
proport
collegia
circums
acquain
structio
and de
counsel
ing and
your at
In a