

virtuous race to enter in and take from their hands the sceptre of leadership. As it was with Rome, so will it be with every country whose people become soft, self-indulgent and corrupt.

Come down the ladder of the centuries to the time when D'Aguesseau, who had the courage to resist Louis XIV. and his Chancellor in the cause of freedom, informed his wife, upon wishing her farewell, that it was probable he should have to sleep in the Bastille. The reply of his wife is on record:—

"Allez, Monsieur, et agissez comme si vous n'aviez ni femme ni enfants. J'aime mieux vous voir conduit à la Bastille avec honneur, que de vous voir revenir ici deshonoré."

It is the spirit of such women as those that puts a soul into a nation. Now, some of you ladies may perhaps think in your modesty that your influence does not count, and that no special duty falls on you. I tell you that the influence of each of you does count in making the character of a nation, and that the only doubt which makes me hesitate about the future of Canada is whether you, the women of Canada, have the imagination to realize the greatness of your destiny, and the spirit to achieve it.

May I say this without giving offence, that unless each one of you takes an interest both in the history of your country and in the future of your country; unless you have one hand holding on to the traditions of the past, and both eyes fixed upon the stars, you are not doing your duty to either your country or your King.

What can you do to help your country? Why, if you women of Montreal shut the doors of your houses against men who corrupt the sources of domestic, civic and national life, in the same way that you exclude from your drawing-rooms men who cheat at cards; if you would refuse the approval of your smile to the man who hits below the belt in sport, business or politics, then the star of Montreal would shine with a brilliancy which would make its radiance felt not only over Canada, but over the United States.

Latent forces would be called into existence, and the play and exercise of those forces might soon make Montreal the first