

The mere mention of the city founded by Champlain three centuries ago, recalls some of the most attractive pages of history. Its annals are rich in feats of arms, in the achievements of military heroes, and in the self-sacrifice of devoted men and women. Within the ramparts of Quebec, projects were conceived for the conquest and civilization of a continent.

For many generations after the discovery of Canada by the French, the stronghold of Quebec was certainly the focus of military and intellectual activity. If, however, we examine its condition from the standpoint of the present day; if we carry our mental vision through the long vista of a hundred and fifty years which have intervened, the perspective of so many generations makes manifest that an element essential to permanency was wanting, that the masses were entire strangers to constitutional freedom, and that the people had little voice in regard to their own destiny.

In the middle of the eighteenth century, the "Great Commoner," William Pitt, with far-reaching and wise prescience, breathed his lofty spirit into the nation he served, and by his advocacy of popular liberty, by sanctioning the initiation of Parliamentary Government in territory now within the Dominion of Canada, he appealed to the higher sentiments of man in every portion of the world. As already stated, it was in 1758 that a small Parliament of elected representatives of the people was established in Halifax, on the model of the English House of Commons, and that it met for the first time on October 2nd of that year. The records of this Parliamentary Assembly have been preserved from the day on which it elected its first Speaker and was formally opened by the Governor, up to the present time. It has assembled yearly during the last one hundred and fifty years. Since the germ of Representative Government was planted in Halifax in 1758, there have been developed nine provincial and one federal legislatures in