

to second the efforts of Dr. Mignault who wants to send French-Canadian soldiers to fight for the cause of France, for the cause of England, for the cause of Belgium and for the cause of mankind. I was saying that for my own part I have declared a truce to party strife; this truce I have observed religiously. I want to say that if it is not observed, the responsibility will not lie with me. My only reason for taking this attitude is that I believe that we are generous. Our old motto is "I remember" and it is because we remember that we declare a truce to party strife when the country is in danger. It is because we remember that the bravest amongst us will go and fight for a sacred cause.

#### Historical Example.

When Bazaine appeared before his judges, accused of betraying the cause of France in surrendering the garrison of Metz,—a garrison that was a whole army,—he claimed that he did not know what else to do because there was no longer any government in France. The president of the tribunal, who was the Duke of Aumale, answered "But France was still there". If Bazaine had had the soul of a Charette or of a De Sonis, who did not figure upon the vicissitudes of a government but who put their sword unconditionally to the service of their country, he would have made his army march against the Germans—instead of surrendering, and it may be believed that victory, so long unfaithful, would at last have smiled upon France. It may be that this partial victory might not have prevented the final triumph of the Germans, but it might have prevented the amputation of France by the loss of Alsace-Lorraine.

#### France is still There.

As for us, we can also say to-day that France is still there. She reveals herself, she surpasses herself in this struggle. The exploits of her army fill us with admiration. When we saw the German hordes arriving under the fortifications of Paris—I confess for my part—we have all had a painful anguish of heart, but we did not know what the plans of Joseph Joffre were. We did not know—that generals Joffre, Pau, Galliéni, Castelnau were so far-sighted, that they had such sound judgment, that they were fully the equals of the young generals of the Revolution. We did not know that the French soldiers had lost nothing of the valour of their ancestors. And this is why we may hope upon a final and complete victory for the armies of France and for those of her allies.

#### Heroic Belgium.

"There is another country, the name of which calls for our deepest admiration. It is heroic Belgium. I heard the name of this country pronounced in Ottawa, in Toronto and in these cities as well as here, it has been greeted by an ovation. Why? Because the Belgian people has displayed such heroism as has probably never been seen before and that may never be seen again in history.

"I cannot hear the name of this country without being moved over the sufferings that it endures,

without a feeling of horror for the atrocities that are being perpetrated, without a feeling of indignation for barbarian Germany. Are we now going to weigh and discuss and measure to know if we must defend this little people? To put the question is to answer it. We will go to the help of Belgium and this is why we are here to-night.

#### Old England.

There is still another country which causes our heart to beat faster. This is Old England. The cause of England is almost as heroic as that of France and of Belgium. England did not go into this war to defend itself, as she is impregnable. She went into this war for the sake of honour, to defend friendly nations and especially to protect nations that are too weak to defend themselves. Let me say once more this is not the time for controversies or for discussion; this is time for a union of all the hearts of patriots. England has been blamed for waiting too long to enter the conflict. However, if we study her attitude in the light of facts, we see that she could not have done any better than she did under the circumstances. It was chiefly against France that Germany made war. Shortly after 1870 Prince Bismarck declared that a new war with France was necessary and that this time France would be bled white. You know also that England is a constitutional country and that in a conflict of this kind it is necessary that the people should be unanimous, that is, that political parties representing the people should be united.

#### A Delicate Situation.

"At the beginning of the war, the two great parties of the English Parliament were still fighting against each other on delicate ground, and if the Government had hurried matters, the consequences might have been disastrous for England, whilst they would have served the end of Germany.

"The British Government has thus acted wisely. One could not too highly praise the patience and the dexterity showed by Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, and Lord Grey, Secretary of External Affairs, in order to bring about the union of all parties, in order that the decision of the people might be unanimous. What must be admired still more is the rapidity with which Lord Kitchener sent troops to France. If there is a thing which I am happy to see realized before I die, it is the union of France and England.

#### Lord Kitchener.

"I want to say a word about Lord Kitchener. Lord Kitchener is not enough known. In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian war, he was twenty years old. He left his country to fight in the ranks of the French troops and try to spare them the humiliation of the defeat. He had the sorrow to see France agonize under the heel of the Prussian; after forty-four years, after having reached the highest rank in the British army, he has the opportunity to help France to avenge herself. These are the reasons for which we, French-Canadians, must fight in the ranks of the British, French and Belgian armies. This is why we are going to give a magnificent exam-