

which is under a special debt to this University, or again as a member of one of our old English Universities, the spirit of which breathes in and animates its offshoots in all parts of the world, or again, as one who watches with friendly interest the steady advance which higher education is making in this country, I value this token of your hospitality and good will, and that I accept it with a deep appreciation of the feelings which have led you to confer it upon me, and find a place for my name upon a roll which includes those of men who are justly honored, not only in this country, but throughout the empire. (Applause.)

I have listened with the greatest interest to the description which you have given me of the origin and objects of the University. It is no small thing that here, in the centre of the Eastern Townships, there should exist a foundation, such as that which the prescience of Bishop Mountain succeeded in establishing at Leunoxville—a Foundation comprising within itself a University, a College, and College School—institutions in which are preserved the best traditions of our English Schools and Colleges, which are well organized and thorough in their methods; and which, moreover, although especially connected with the Church of England, open their doors without distinction to students of all denominations. Such a foundation cannot fail to make its mark upon the people and upon the culture of the country; it must, however, have at first many difficulties to contend with. The experiences of educational pioneers are in their way as trying as those of the earlier settlers who found themselves called upon to hew their way through the backwoods of a new country. Both must be content at first with modest beginnings, and satisfied if each step they take is in the right direction, and if no portion of the ground which year after year they are able to conquer is allowed to run back to wilderness. Some of the obstacles which stand in your way are inseparable from the earlier stages of the career of all such institutions as yours, when they are situated in a new country. First among these come the absence of old endowments, such as those by which the educational foundations of the old Universities have been enriched. I am glad that the stream of private liberality has already begun to flow towards you. Then again there is the fact that in a new country the time necessary for what we should consider a complete University education is, not unnaturally, grudged both by parents and pupils. A lad is expected to be earning his own living at an age when at Oxford or Cambridge he would still be wearing an undergraduate's gown. I must own that I am strongly disposed to believe that we at home prolong the period of education unnecessarily. Pitt was Prime Minister at an age when many young Englishmen nowadays are still taking their B.A. degree, and here in Canada we must somehow or other contrive to compress our University course within more reasonable limits.