

It has become the fashion to decry this feeling in Canada. Colonial patriotism was a thing until lately discouraged in England, and, because so discouraged, was sneered at by many in Canada. Patriotism in Canada was all right, but it must not take in the country itself. The Fenian raids dissipated this idea. It was then found that, without local patriotism, all the forts and defences Canada could build would be useless.

Let us then in the present, as a safeguard for the future, foster by every means this feeling of patriotism which has been in all nations and ages the greatest defense of freedom. The anniversary, the patriotic song, the national air, and the national symbols and emblems, should be encouraged in every way. The Americans know the value of these things which to Canadians seem silly. Millions are spent every year in the United States in diffusing patriotic feeling, and the whole nation is in a short time to celebrate the centenary of its existence with that object. The Canadian Government should do the same thing. The national anniversary should be declared a legal holiday, and public funds provided for its celebration all over the country. A public reward ought to be offered for the best national air. This seems to have an effect among an intelligent people greater than all others. The national symbols appeal to the eye, but it is the national air that strikes the ear and the heart. The success of this means is best illustrated by the French air, the Marseillaise. This air has been described as the French Revolution set to music, and well it might be; it swept Europe like a whirlwind, and thousands have walked fearlessly, gladly to the death inspired by its patriotic strains.

The Dominion of Canada is large enough to have some separate and distinct symbol even at present. The mercantile fleet of the country ought to be designated in foreign parts, and if a Canadian Lloyds be established it will become a necessity. There is no approach to being a distinct people without a flag. In all civilized times it has, as it were,