

Forty birthdays have passed since July, 1867, so few and yet how full of promise and optimism and progress. But it is only a single milestone, after all, towards the goal of Canada's full-fruited day of power.

"Pray Heaven our greatness may not fail  
Through craven fear of being great."

Her horoscope no man can cast. God alone knows what is in store for her. But there are men who have the Divine Gift of prevision, and I leave with you the picture of the future as it fell upon the patriotic eye of these men who had this gift, and who left behind them the legacy of a great character, whose intrinsic value to Canada is at least equal to their fame.

Joseph Howe, May 15th, 1851, at Mason Hall, Halifax, speaking of the Convention of the Intercolonial Railway and the general effect of railway development upon Canada, said:—

"Think you that we shall stop even at the Western bounds of Canada, or even at the shores of the Pacific? Vancouver Island, with its vast coal treasures, lies beyond. The beautiful islands of the Pacific, and the growing commerce of the ocean, are beyond. Populous China and the rich East are beyond, and the sails of our children's children will reflect as familiarly the sunbeams of the South as they now brave the angry tempests of the North. The Maritime Provinces which I now address are but the Atlantic fringe of this boundless and prolific region—the wharves upon which its business will be transacted, and beside which its rich argosies are to lie. I believe that many in this room will live to hear the whistle of the steam engine in the passes of the Rocky Mountains, and to make the journey from Halifax to the Pacific in five or six days.

Hon. A. MacKenzie, in the debate in Parliament on the Quebec Resolutions, February 23rd, 1865:

"I look forward to the future with anticipation of seeing a Country and a Government possessing great power and respectability, and of being, before I die, a citizen of an immense empire built up on our part of the American Continent, where the folds of the British flag will float in triumph over a people possessing freedom, happiness and prosperity, equal to the people of any other nation on the earth"

Lord Dufferin, at Winnipeg, Sept. 27th, 1877:

"In a world apart, secluded from all extraneous influence, nestling at the feet of her Majestic mother, Canada dreams her dream and forbodes her destiny—a dream of ever-broadening harvests, multiplying towns and villages, and expanding pastures; of Constitutional self-government and a Confederated empire; of page after page of honourable history, added as her contribution to the Annals of the Mother Country and to the glories of the British race; of a perpetuation for all time upon this continent of that temperate and well-balanced system of government which combines in one mighty whole as the eternal possession of the British race, the brilliant history of the past with the freest and most untrammelled liberty of action in the future."