

In the face of the facts above adduced, what is to be thought, Ladies and Gentlemen, of the depreciatory comparisons so often made between ourselves and our neighbours as to rate of progress? They are, in my opinion, as erroneous as in their operation they are calculated to be mischievous. The impression which forced itself most strongly on my mind during the journey to which I have referred elsewhere, was the striking coincidence in appearance (with the exception of prairie in place of forest) and condition between those States and Canada West. They are progressing rapidly; but so are we. New towns present themselves on every hand; small, it is true, many of them; yet destined to be large ere long. Thus too it is with us. With theirs our Towns compare very favourably; so do our rural districts. My belief is that a Canadian farmer would return from such a tour as I made somewhat disposed to boast; that he would say our cultivation is at least as good as that of the West; and our farm houses as good, and provided as comfortably.

In the progress of our neighbours I rejoice; and would be happy, instead of wishing it retarded, to see it accelerated. This would gratify me, not merely for their sake and for the sake of the world, but for our own. We have an interest in their growth, which operates as a spur and encouragement to us. To a young country like this it is an advantage which cannot easily be rated too high, to have an intelligent, energetic people along side of us, whose experience, whether successful or otherwise, we can turn to account.

The good qualities which we all recognise in our neighbours form an additional reason for the cultivation of a spirit of respect and kindness towards them. Add to this our oneness in origin, in language, and in whatever is most important in thought and feeling; and the cherishing of any other spirit will be seen to be, not a simple impropriety, but an offence, a crime. God, moreover, seems to have marked out one high and honourable destiny for us—the privilege of showing on one of the most splendid of theatres, what christianity and freedom and intelligence can do for men; and of realizing their united blessings in proportion to the fidelity with which we fulfill the trust committed to us. What is good among them let us imitate: but let us act with discrimination; and not like children, hold their cake and rattle to be better than our own, and brawl for them, merely because they are theirs.

The time you have been already detained, forbids my dwelling on the Prospects of our noble country, however inviting the theme. My belief is that it is destined, at no distant day, to hold a high and honourable place among the nations; and to exert an influence, wide and powerful, on the world's well-being.