

mouth of the Mississippi, to the south and the Rocky Mountains on the west. Cabot's discovery was also the cause of these favoured regions becoming the scene of colonization by two of the great northern nations of Europe, France and England.

In the whole length of Canada, whose existence and whose British nationality may be ascribed to John Cabot, there is not to be found the most insignificant monument erected, to commemorate the fact or to honor his adventurous memory.

Never, indeed, before, did circumstances so favour such a commemoration as is now proposed to be held. One hundred years ago the times were out of joint. The descendants of the original English colonists, that had followed Cabot's track across the ocean to New England, were too much occupied in glorification over their still recent separation from the flag which he had planted, too deep in constitution making and the vexations of a turbulent young nationality, to turn aside to honor the memories of a distant past. At the same moment English speaking Canada was too much occupied in providing new homes in the wilderness for the refugees from the great schism, to indulge in celebrations. It has been reserved, therefore, for 1897, the close of perhaps the most significant century in the world's history, to take up the task which preceding centuries left undone; and it is only fitting that it should have been undertaken by Canada.

The time is, moreover, fitting to make this historical anniversary the occasion of recording, for the observation of the world, the long consecutive history of Canada, and also the position which she has, by quiet, persistent effort, industrial and political, already gained for herself in the brotherhood of the British Empire, if not in the family of nations.

The occasion in this respect is most inspiring, and the committee which initiated the project have every reason

to feel confident that a broad and vigorous response will be forthcoming, both from the large number of literary men who have made history and the sciences a subject of study, and particularly from the young men of Canada, who will rejoice in the opportunity of contributing, in every form in their power, to this first great national demonstration.

To give effect to these aims the work before the Exhibition Committee may be divided into several classes. First among these will naturally be those of a purely historical character. They will tend towards creating a visible object lesson, from which foreigners and also our own people will carry away, as a result of the Exhibition, a distinct and comprehensive idea of the successive periods and courses of events which have led, in what now seems a natural and preordained progression, towards the present existence of Canada, as a people of various origins but united destiny.

There will be sought to be brought together an assemblage of loan collections from all parts of Canada, and it is hoped elsewhere. The logical initiation of the series will be such as will exhibit first the traditions, arts and modes of life of the native tribes, the palimpsest upon which European colonization has written the later histories.

Next will follow an arrangement in a series of rooms, of the portraits, relics and records of the long series of discoverers. First the tradition of the Norsemen. Then their more historic followers; from Cabot, who made known the North American shores, to Jacques Cartier and his successors, down to the intrepid La Salle, the discoverer of the Mississippi. Cook, Vancouver and Mackenzie will also have their place, as the explorers of the Pacific coast of the continent. These should be followed by the long list of adventurous voyagers in the forbidding regions of the North, including Frobisher, Hudson and Franklin, down