

grand work among young men, nobody will deny. That their influence upon the thought and lives of our people is tremendous, the most superficial observer must admit. But I cannot help feeling that in many cases they do not take that interest in the historical and political relations of their country which they might. Young Canadians by the hundred come away from academic life, cold and indifferent to Canadian interests as such, and this lethargy begets in too many instances, an absolute ignorance of the historical meaning of our country and people. But some will say, "what difference does it make about the struggle between the English and French? Of what significance is the Quebec Act, Conquest of Quebec, or the war of 1812? The contest for responsible government, Confederation of 1867 and our present economic problems have no value for us." I reply that they do. Show us the man who will pretend to give an intelligent and able review of these questions who does not know something of their historical basis, who does not find their roots deep in our political annals. Will anyone have the hardihood to say, that they have not just as an important bearing upon the social, religious and political institutions of Canada, as the abolition of those abominable restrictions in 1789 had upon the subsequent history of France, or the Norman Conquest and the signing of Magna Charta had upon the future condition of England? The fact is that a knowledge of our early history, and especially that of Quebec is the *sine qua non* to any clear apprehension of our political condition. Notwithstanding the progress of our Schools and colleges, it seems to me that there is a pressing need for scientific study in Canadian history, and if you will, Canadian political economy. Let us turn the attention of our young men towards this for a time. The details of a Roman Senate, or a Medieval *Bund* may be interesting in the extreme, but let us not forget the work of our forefathers who, hoped to found in the forests of the west a state in which there would be justice for all, free scope for all, fair reward for labor, a new home for freedom, freedom from grinding poverty, freedom from the galling chain of ancient feuds, mutual confidence and righteousness between man and man, flowing from trust in God." We have not it is true the institutional growth, the mighty wars and conquests, the industrial development and all the other wealth of historical fact that belong to the realm of

England. We have not the country of Grote and Mill, Faraday and Tom Brown. The sages and philosophers the poets and statesmen that have adorned the name of England have not thus far fallen to us. We cannot, therefore, aspire to such proportions. But one thing we can do. We can teach the rising generation that they have a country whose history is lit up by such characters as Cartier and Champlain, Wolfe and Montcalm, Papineau and Baldwin. We can teach them something of the romantic, yet dreary side of the Regiment, we can tell them the price of constitutional French liberty, the value of Confederation and its fruits—how Canada from small and scattered settlements has been gradually built up into a great Dominion, with fine institutions and government so marvellously like those of that grand old mother, from whose loins we have sprung. Our constitution is a subject of interesting study and may favorably be compared with the Federal systems of Germany, Switzerland, and the United States.

The study of comparative politics would give increased pride in our own institutions, and while relieving us from the provinciality of our own judgments, it would likewise give us more solid reasons for confidence in ourselves. A greater attention to political economy would materially aid us in the settlement of national questions to-day. It would give young men something deeper than the average newspaper twaddle. It will cost them some effort it is true, but as Spiroza puts it "All things excellent are as difficult as they are rare." No one, in my judgment, is able to give any helpful opinion on our present economic position unless he has studied in part the incidence of taxation, causes of trade, effect of tariffs, production, markets and wages. The truth of this statement can be demonstrated up to the hilt, from the silly and superficial talk which may every-day be found in public speeches and columns of the press. A brief historical view of economics combined with its theoretical study would interest young people in our social and political relations, and at the same time render their assistance of increased value to the masses. Unless the college man is prepared to become the leaven in Canadian society, unless he can carry out to the people a respect and love for his own country, and above all unless he be the living example of a patriotic Canadian, in vain will he inspire his countrymen