

I can assure you I experience considerable pride and satisfaction in hearing my name coupled with this toast, for I feel it an honor to be called upon to say a word of commendation for a country, which, if it have not the overflowing population of other nations, is one that has already made its mark in history, and that I trust, will continue its onward march until it eventually takes its place among the greatest powers of the world.

In saying this, Gentlemen, I express no wild or extravagant wish. In Canada we have a country, which for the beauty of its landscape, its agricultural wealth and the abundance of its natural productions, is unsurpassed in either hemisphere. Washed by three oceans, its area is vaster than the great republic south of us, and sufficiently large to include several of the greatest European countries. One hundred millions of people can settle comfortably upon its lands, and still leave room for extensive colonization. Its lordly mountains, awful in their sublimity, at times piercing the clouds and again descending into verdant and smiling valleys are beds of incalculable treasures, that rest there, waiting only for the industry of man to dislodge them from their enclosures. Between picturesque banks, majestic rivers "wind this way and now that their devious course," bearing on their bosoms the leviathan servants of commerce, while fragrant breezes waft to other lands, the superfluous offerings of a generous soil. Our country has often slightly been called "a land of ice and snow." True it is that we have not the temperate climate of more southern latitudes. True it is that there are times in the year, when we can not take a noon-day nap in zephyr-whispering groves. But, the gem is formed amidst unpleasant surroundings; gold is imbedded in rough rocks. In formation, both have probably been subject to intense temperatures, and it will be found that the Canadian climate by its varying phases, is just

such as is best calculated to quicken, foster and develop the hardiest and noblest qualities in man. Such, Gentlemen, is the country to which we belong; such, some of the blessings we enjoy. If our country will not some day rise to an eminent distinction among the nations, we shall not be able to say, it is because nature has not nobly done her share; no, but because we have not properly done ours. So much for the country itself; but how now about the inhabitants of this vast domain. Gentlemen, Canada has no ordinary children. Her earlier sons from whom our present generation has sprung, had for their ancestors, men who belonged to two of the most powerful nations in Europe. They came to us from the vine-clad hills of sunny France and the white shores of merry England. This union in itself was good; its character was immensely improved by a happy commingling of the suffering sons of saintly Ireland. Our population now combines in laudable proportions the thrift of the Scotchman, the pluck of the Englishman, the vivacity of the Frenchman, the frugality of the German, the honesty, virtue and fidelity of the Irishman. These, along with others, were the precious ingredients which formed that one homogeneous mass, constituting the Canadian people—a people hardy, industrious, hospitable to strangers at home; generous to sufferers abroad. When funds are wanting for the Irish cause, we contribute in proportion to our numbers twice as much as our American brethren. When an appeal is made for the famine-stricken sufferers in India, we respond even more liberally than England, herself. Those are the qualities of the Canadian people—qualities which heaven always rewards, yes, often by raising tottering nations from obscure bondage and penury to the exalted elevations of freedom and opulence. Gentlemen, unless heaven's designs can be sadly frustrated, Canada's reward will surely come.