

and the indulgence you have shown me, that every moment of my life in Canada, from the moment that I came here, nearly seven years ago, until to-night, has been, with one most sad hour of bereavement, during which we were sustained by your kindest sympathies, one long, continual, uninterrupted time of happiness to myself and family. (Applause). I do not admit that Sir Charles Fitzpatrick's statement, "Uneasy is the brow that wears a crown," is applicable to the representative of the crown in Canada. It may be true of his Prime Ministers, either past or future (laughter), but owing to the fact that the Ministers of the Crown take all the trouble away from the wearer of the crown, or from his representative, the official who has the honour to represent His Majesty here has, I maintain, the happiest, pleasantest billet that exists in the whole service of the crown. Thus, gentlemen, you will believe me when I say that it is not possible for any of us, Lady Grey, my daughters or myself, to wrench away the roots that have intertwined our affections round Ottawa and its people during the past seven years, and to transplant them across the Atlantic, without our suffering many painful twinges and tuggings of the heart. It is undoubtedly true that we shall return to England our whole lives illumined with many delightful and glorious memories ; but it is equally true that we shall leave, all of us, a large part of our hearts behind. (Applause).

Now, gentlemen, if I may occupy your attention for a few moments, may I say that I am glad that my last public association with Ottawa should be through the medium of your Canadian Club? The first Canadian invitation I received in England after my appointment as Governor-General was from the Canadian Club of Ottawa. I enquired what sort of institution this Canadian Club might be, and I was told that I had better exercise a little caution before I accepted the invitation, as it was important that the representative of His Majesty should not do anything which might possibly smirch the honour and the dignity of the crown (laughter). I was warned that the Canadian Club might be a dangerously nationalistic organization, having for its ultimate aim and ambition complete independence.

Gentlemen, I confess this warning, for which I was of course duly grateful, did not greatly terrify or unnerve me, for, being an optimist in temperament, I had such an intense belief in the great advantage and privilege attaching to British citizenship that I could not conceive the possibility of any self-governing portion of the Empire holding for a moment to the belief that there was a nobler future and a greater destiny for it outside rather than inside the British Empire. (Applause). That being my belief, as soon as I arrived in Ottawa I quickly resolved that I could safely become the close and fast friend of the Canadian Club.

Yes, gentlemen, if the evolution of our Empire is to be on sound lines, on lines leading to greatness ; to the greatness of the whole as well as to the greatness of the parts, that evolution must be based on the unreserved and unstinted recognition of the local autonomous rights of the self-governing Dominions. (Hear, hear).