

Scotland, but—why should I not say it?—the first place in my heart is Ireland.” I may say, in the same way, I love England, I love Scotland, I love Ireland, but I may be permitted to say to you that the first place in my heart is Canada, my native land. We Canadians love Canada, our native land or our land of adoption, and we are proud of her. We love her not only because it is the land of our home—there would be no merit in that, even the Eskimo loves his ice-bound hut—we love her for her many beauties and attractions; we love her for her majestic rivers; we love her for her lakes, equal to seas; we love her for her boundless prairies, for her virgin forests, for her lofty mountains, for her fertile plains; we love her for her beautiful climate—warm in summer, cold in winter, but dry at all times. We love her even for her snows. Rudyard Kipling has called Canada the land of snows—“Our Lady of the Snows.” Someone objected to it; I do not. The snows of Canada are one of the charms of Canada, which England cannot boast of; and we love her for her snows, though, as every one knows, in the summer time her skies are as blue as the skies of Italy. We are proud of her and of her history—her history as romantic and touching as fiction. It is no exaggeration, it is only the sober truth, to say that the history of Canada cannot be excelled by the history of England, or even the history of France, from the day after that famous battle in which Wolfe died thanking God as his eyes closed on the victory of his army, and when Montcalm was carried away from the field, conscious that he would not survive the first defeat of his hitherto ever-victorious army. It is sober truth—it is not exaggeration—to say that the history of Canada exceeds, perhaps, in interest, in instruction, the history of any country, from the time she became a colony of England, all through the long struggle maintained by the new subjects of

England for constitutional government up to the present day, when the principle of freedom has been extended to Canada, and has resulted in the magnificent spectacle which we now give to the world of united races previously enemies. You have truly said that Canada is now a nation. Her population is now over 5,000,000 of souls, and she has, as you have stated, readily available fertile lands which can give home, food and shelter to at least 100,000,000 of men. It might be an independent nation, but Canada does not seek to become an independent nation, because Canada to-day practically is an independent nation. Were we severed from England we could not have more power and more freedom than we have at the present time, and all thinking men with us have come to the conclusion that there is as much freedom, more power, more wealth, and more happiness in union than in separation. We are giving thus a free example, as you stated a moment ago, to our sister colonies, and if the example we have given is followed elsewhere, if a federation takes place in Australia, if another confederation takes place in South Africa by and by, in a few years the earth will have been settled by a series of independent nations, which, however, will recognize the suzerainty of England; and it seems to me that in this fact alone there will be security for the peace of the world at large.

We in Canada may, perhaps, do something more. You have stated that we have the continent of North America with a great nation of kindred race, but with which the relations of England have not always been of the most satisfactory character. Since I have been in England, within the last few days, it seems to me that I have found evidences not a few that there are perhaps in the minds of public men in England, and not only in the minds of public men, but in the minds of the people at large, some apprehen-