

excellence. Your grain, your fruit, your stock, your men, your women, are through her agency the best of their kind; and last, but not least, not only does she give you the saving quality of excellence, but she has also secured you, through the agency of her winters, the possession of time in which to think.

Another reason why you should be most grateful to the Lady of the Snows, is because she invests your people with the strenuous qualities of a royal race, and diminishes the effeminates whose one idea of existence is luxurious indolence. With all these immense advantages it will be your own fault if you, the Canadians, do not become the first race on this side of the Atlantic.

Having said all this, you will not be surprised if I add that, in my opinion, you do not act very chivalrously when you refuse to hold your winter carnivals, which were the means of bringing so many pretty American ladies to your city, for fear that some people on the other side of the Atlantic may be prevented from coming here, because they do not wish to make the acquaintance of the Lady of the Snows.

Now to those to whom much has been given, of them shall much be expected, and I come back to my theme, what are you, the women of Montreal, doing in order that you may help your city and Canada to shine like a star?

Remember, women not only are the most lovely of the Creator's works, but no influence is so great as theirs. In every age they have set the social standards. In every age they have inspired men to be heroes, or degraded them to the level of the brutes.

You remember the answer of the Roman matron, Volumnia, who met the sympathy for the death of her son in battle, thus: "Had I a dozen sons, I had rather eleven die nobly for their country, than one voluptuously surfeit out of action." It was the spirit of women like Volumnia which made the Roman people unconquerable and irresistible. When luxury enervated and selfishness corrupted the Roman people, and the men lost their manhood and the women their virtue, then the way was opened right to the heart of Rome for a hardier and more