

of the final touches to the *Idylls of the King*. The dedication to the Queen was in hand, and when it appeared it contained those memorable lines on Canada's relationship to the Empire:

"And that true North, whereof we lately heard
A strain to shame us—'keep you to yourselves,
So loyal is too costly! friends, your love
Is but a burden; break the bonds and go!'
Is this the tone of Empire— Here the faith
That made us rulers? This indeed her voice
And meaning, whom the roar of Hougomont
Left mightiest of all nations under Heaven?
What shock has fooled her since that she should speak
So feebly? Wealthier—wealthier—hour by hour!
The voice of Britain, or a sinking land,
Some third-rate isle half lost among the seas?
There rang her voice, when the full city peal'd
Thee and Thy Prince; The loyal to their crown
Are loyal to their own far sons, who love
Our Ocean Empire with her boundless homes."

The tone of England changed, and never since has any inspired or authoritative statement been put out that Canada might go because she cost the Empire too much. Lord Dufferin, our Governor-General, wrote to Tennyson as follows: "Your noble words have struck responsive fire from every heart, they have effectually healed the wounds caused by the senseless language of 'The Times.' Canada may well be proud that her loyal aspirations should be imperishably recorded in the greatest poem of this generation."

And who inspired or suggested these words which Tennyson addressed to the Queen? Another woman; one whose husband had gone to penetrate the northern wilds of Arctic Canada, and whose homecoming she had waited for in vain—it was no other than Lady Franklin, the friend and relative of the poet, who was staying with the poet at the time and whose keen interest in this country prompted the suggestion which the poet immediately acted upon.

It was not through his poems only that Lord Tennyson influenced the Empire. He was retiring in disposition; he avoided the crowd, seldom appeared in public, but the greatest men and women of England were his intimate friends. Read that