

Governor General with the Joint Address of the Senate and House of Commons, expressing their deep feeling of regret at the approaching departure from *Canada* of His Excellency and His Illustrious Consort, and that His Excellency was pleased to make the following most gracious reply:—

*Honorable Gentlemen:*

No higher personal honor can be received by a public man than that which by this Address you have been pleased to accord to me. In asking you to accept my gratitude, I thank you also for your words regarding the Princess, whose affection for *Canada* fully equals mine. It will be my pride and duty to aid you in the future to the utmost of my power.

Now that the pre-arranged term of our residence among you draws to its end, and the happiest five years I have ever known are nearly spent, it is my fortune to look back on a time during which all domestic discord has been avoided; our friendship with the great neighboring Republic has been sustained, and an uninterrupted prosperity has marked the advance of the Dominion.

In no other land have the last seventeen years—the space of time which has elapsed since your Federation—witnessed such progress. Other countries have had their territories enlarged, and their destinies determined by trouble and war, but no blood has stained the bonds which have knit together your free and order-loving populations. And yet in this period, so brief in the life of a Nation, you have attained to a Union whose characteristics, from sea to sea, are the same.

A Judicature above suspicion; self-governing communities entrusting to a strong Central Government all national interests; the toleration of all faiths, with favor to none; a franchise recognizing the rights of labor, by the exclusion only of the idler; the maintenance of a Government, not privileged to exist for any fixed term, but ever susceptible to the change of public opinion, and ever open through a responsible Ministry to the scrutiny of the people;—these are the features of your rising Power.

Finally you present the spectacle of a Nation, already possessing the means to make its position respected by its resources in men available at sea or on land. May these never be required except to gather the harvests the bounty of God has so lavishly bestowed upon you. The spirit, however, which made your Fathers resist encroachments on your soil and liberties, is with you now; and it is as certain to-day as it was formerly, that you are ready to take on yourselves the necessary burden to ensure the permanence of your Laws and Institutions.

You have the power to make Treaties on your own responsibility with foreign Nations, and your High Commissioner is associated for purposes of negotiation with the Foreign Office.

You are not the subjects, but the free allies of the great country which gave you birth, and is ready with all its energy to be the champion of your interests. Standing side by side *Canada* and *Great Britain* work together for the commercial advancement of each other. It is the recognition of this which makes such an occasion as the present significant. Personal ties, however dear to individuals are of no public moment. These may be happy or unhappy accidents. But the satisfaction experienced from the conditions of the connection now subsisting between the old and the new Lands, can be affected by no personal accident.

I therefore rejoice that again it has been your determination to show that *Canada* remains as firmly rooted as ever in love to that free union which ensures to you and to *Great Britain* equal advantages. Without it the maintenance of your Institutions and National Autonomy would not be allowed to endure for a twelvemonth; while the loss of the alliance of the communities which were once the dependencies of *England*, would be a heavy blow to her commerce and renown.