

represent our nation's story; they are the centre of our national life. With consummate skill, expression is everywhere given to this conception.

The stone of which the walls of the interior are constructed bears upon its surface the marks of the sea, though it comes all the way from the Middle West. It is Canadian stone. Like the Laurentians which we see as we look towards the setting sun, it reminds us that, recent as our country's written history may be, its material foundations belong to the oldest known geological formations to be found anywhere on the surface of the globe.

Francis Parkman has told, in one of his great works descriptive of Canada's past, of how, while New England was still a wilderness, and the settlers of Virginia scarcely dared venture inland beyond the sound of a cannon shot, Champlain, in the near vicinity of the Rideau and the Chaudiere, where these very buildings stand, was planting on shores and islands the emblems of his faith. The daring exploits of these early intrepid explorers and Christian missionaries, that form the romantic and heroic background of our early history, are depicted here and there in sculpture and painting throughout these Halls, reminding us of the great race that first brought the arts of civilization to this part of the North American continent.

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