

the soul of the first white man who stood upon Mount Royal and looked away over the mighty river and the majestic forests to the unknown west. But oh, the privations, the sufferings, the destitution, the poverty, the freezing cold, the scorching heat, the loneliness, the homesickness, the perils by night, and perils by day, the long weary marches through the wilderness before the battle of empire could be fought, and the victory won. This nation has not been born in a day. Thousands of her noblest sons and daughters, both French and English, had to lay their dust in the soil of their adopted country before the Dominion of Canada could rise proudly from their ashes to take her place amongst the nations of the earth. And the empire that now is, how different, and how much grander in design and accomplishment than that which Jacques Cartier saw in his vision as he looked out from Mount Royal towards the setting sun.

But the providences of God are wiser in their designs than the plans and imaginations of men. Living in that far off time, the most fertile imagination of Cartier could not have pictured an empire of peace and plenty, three thousand miles in extent, with arms of iron laid across its bosom, whereby the Atlantic in the east clasps hands with the great Pacific in the west.

Coming from the continent of Europe, where it was thought an impossibility for a sovereign king and a sovereign people to be represented in the same Government—an impossibility for a country to advance without either the Government taking control of the Church or the Church taking control of the Government—where it was thought an impossibility for peace to reign unless there was one religion for all and unless all were for one religion. Coming from contact with such dominant thought as this, he could not have seen the happy auspices under which we meet to-day in this magnificent and cosmopolitan city, that has risen on the dust of the Indian wigwams that were called a chief town in the days of Cartier. Were he to stand on the mountain to-day, looking east, west, north and south, he would see four million square miles of territory, and five million people united under one central responsible Government, that Government not dominating and not dominated by the Church, that Government giving liberty alike to all classes of the people to be religious according to the dictates of their own consciences, and protecting all alike in the exercise of this liberty. But before this could come about there had to be, in the providence of God, wars and rumors of wars. Nation had to rise against nation and king-