

sacred ground. Sacred to the cause of religious liberty, which here had its birthplace, and sacred to the memory of Roger Williams, 'one,' if I am allowed to quote a high-minded Protestant writer, 'of the sweetest souls with which God ever adorned the earth we tread.' Political liberty you who dwell in New England had always in abundance, but religious liberty you had not, nor did it anywhere exist in the English colonies until, in the mind of Roger Williams, there dawned the idea of liberty of the soul. I say nowhere else, for even the charter of Maryland excluded Unitarians. First of all in this City of Providence was announced the only theory under which men can live in harmony and peace.

THE PRINCIPLE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

If, then, gentlemen, the history of your fair city raises such noble thoughts, how much does its name, Providence?—"La Providence," for the word is a French word too. How it raises our thoughts to the Father of all men whose hand guides the destiny of nations as well as of men—who protected Roger Williams in the wilderness of Narragansett and Champlain on the shore of the great river to the north.

"Gentlemen, as I look around and see in your beautiful city, and in an audience such as this, the evidence of prosperity and culture, I can see how bountifully Providence has blessed you. His hand has led you along the checkered path of your destiny and brought you out in peace and plenty. I rejoice at it—and as I think of your career and that of the great Union of Republics of which you form part—as I picture, in my imagination, the opening vistas of your increasing prosperity, I rejoice—for, in the family of nations, we are learning that the prosperity of one is the prosperity of all. Gentlemen—sons of Roger Williams—children of Providence—can there be a 'Providence' for you and none for us? We know that cannot be. We men of the North feel and know that we also have a history and a career and a destiny before us, and that the luminous star which has guided you will also guide us. We feel that Providence has entrusted to our hands the development of the northern half of this continent, and we are not cowards to shrink from our task.

"Men may come here and tell you that the political party I represent are actuated by hostile feelings to you; if they speak so they tell you falsehoods. (Hear, hear and cheers.) Yes falsehoods. (Hear, hear and cheers.) Our feelings are kindly, and we are as desirous as they are of extending the intercourse between our country and yours to the farthest limit of friendship consistent with manly dignity. Why should we not be so? But the difference between their party and mine is that my party believes in the destinies of Canada—theirs does not. My party believes in a providential career for our country, their party thinks that there is no Providence save for others. My firm belief is that your country and mine can go on, each in its own sphere, developing the resources of this continent side by side in brotherly amity, distinguished by these individual differences which mark the members of one household, but bearing the family lineaments of civil and political liberty which stamp the races from which we have sprung.