

through force, but democracy has but one basis, the character of the people. Civic duty, leadership—these are its two pillars. Yet do we realize how faint is the sense of civic duty? How often one hears the remark in society that cultured people of all nationalities feel no national severance. There is something like this at the other extreme. A plumber working for me dropped the remark one day, "One's country will soon be where one happens to live." Great attitudes both when they are rooted in the human instinct, but that is far from their real significance. There is a culture that refines patriotism into a survival of the tribal spirit. But unless a man is a god or a beast, our same philosopher would say, he requires narrower loyalty—loyalty that goes deeper than that curiously un-English thing, flag-worship, which, so far as it contains the military spirit, is the accursed thing for this continent. In a great appeal which the President of the United States recently made at Harvard for public service, he complained of the negative criticism of college men on great issues of the day, but we have not yet produced even criticism. There is some strange sterility in our secondary and higher education. To our Province undoubtedly still belongs the moral and material primacy of the Dominion, but in how many fields are we searching helplessly for leaders. A great ideal is indeed being debated by our churches, but without great leadership. In various fields we organize, but we cannot animate the machines we construct. We have scholarship, scientific attainments, good preachers and corporation lawyers, and probably the most skilful teaching to be found on the continent, many men "decent not to fail," but no distinction. We know what distinction is, for we have produced it in great counsels and statesmen, and we knew they were great while yet we had them. But we appear at the moment to have got rid of individuality and leadership. I am not one that believes that this is the inherent weakness of democracy, and I shall not say that our educational system is wholly responsible, but I do maintain that if it were sound and animated with life, our Province would be in a different case. The truth is that the life has been organized out of our politics, and that education is fast dying by starvation in its lower grades, partly because we cannot show the people