

of the country, but the different nationalities of the Dominion should feel that the welfare, the happiness and the future progress and prosperity of our country will depend upon their spirit of harmony and fraternity, and the path which we should follow to attain that end is indicated by the history of our country. In the last conflict which took place between French and English on the Plains of Abraham for supremacy in Canada, a dramatic fact which strikes the mind of every one who reads the history of that memorable period, is the death of Wolfe and Montcalm, of the conqueror and the conquered, of those two heroes so worthy of the admiration of the two great nations they represented. It seems at the very moment when new France was to pass under British domination, it was the will of God that French and English should learn to appreciate their respective qualities and mutually respect themselves, and it was under the influence of that noble feeling that France and England agreed to erect a monument to those two heroes, Wolfe and Montcalm, and proclaim that they deserved to be united in the same immortality by a common memorial. In the great struggles which took place for the establishment of constitutional government and parliamentary liberty, French and English joined hands, and even in 1837 and 1838 the two principal leaders of the insurrection of the province of Quebec, it is very extraordinary to know, were Englishmen—Wolfred and Robert Nelson. Without their speeches, I doubt if the province of Lower Canada would have taken up arms. But it was especially noticed in 1842 that that feeling of union and fraternity achieved remarkable success. It was really through the auspicious alliance between Baldwin and Lafontaine that we won constitutional government and the glorious consecration, under the constitution, of political equality for men of all races and all creeds. That feeling of union and fraternity has prevailed in times of religious and national friction. It has not disappeared. It continues to inspire our statesmen and to guide them, and on different occasions we have seen the two great parties of this country comprising the great majority of gentlemen belonging to the Anglo-Saxon race accepting men as leaders without questioning their nation-

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ality, and here I have the right to say that that sentiment received its decisive and solemn consecration when one of those two parties accepted as leader, first of the opposition and afterwards of the government, a man belonging to the French and religious minority, a French Canadian, but the most eminent representative of his race, a man whose talent and character are admired even by his adversaries—Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That evidence of fraternity and toleration had the best affect upon the minds of our population, upon those who, like myself, I must admit, were not very enthusiastic about confederation, fearing that it might prove disadvantageous to the minority and produce many national and religious conflicts. It produced the impression that there was a common ground in this country on which all nationalities could unite in the general interests of the Dominion without ceasing to cherish the glorious traditions of our history, without renouncing our religious or rational traditions. After all, fidelity to the past and to the memory of ancestors must be respected, because it is a noble feeling which cannot produce anything but good. We have had an example of what that feeling can produce in the glorious achievements of the Japanese in the present war. I have no hesitation in saying that veneration for the past is a source of poetry and of patriotism, of heroism and noble inspirations, and is much less to be feared than the subversive doctrines of those people who threaten the peace and progress of the world.

At a time when the worshippers of the Golden Calf are so numerous, when materialism exercises so dangerous an influence, let us take great care not to demolish the altars upon which pious hands keep up the fire of self-denial and sacrifice. The spirit of union and fraternity which enabled our great statesmen to achieve such noble deeds will also enable us to continue their good and patriotic work and to give a noble and comforting sight to those who never cease to proclaim and to repeat the sublime words which greeted the birth of Christ: 'Peace to men of good will.' This spirit will, moreover, make Canada one of the most remarkable fields of human activity, a truly promised land where all the nations of the world will come to live happy and prosperous, to enjoy the benefits of liberty and the