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country, who, by enrolling themselves under its expressive watch-
word, can exercise the gift of self government and of spontaneous
social activity of which all citizens of the Dominion are naturally
and justly proud, as the birthright of a free people and the best
security of its liberties. Of the importance of Friendly Societies
generally, we cannot conclude this Preface more appropriately than
in the words of one of our great living statesmen, who, in an utter-
ance at a Friendly Society gathering, said:—

“I attach value to these Societies because they are so thoroughly
“and absolutely spontaneous. They represent the character of the
“people, and in one of its best and most pleasing aspects. I would
“almost say—I do not wish to use any language of flattery, or any
“language of exaggeration; but still I must venture to say—that,
“so long as societies of this class, justly constituted and honestly
“worked, continue to form a broad and marked future in English
“society, the country is not likely to go very far or hopelessly
“wrong.”

That the Ancient Order of Foresters, as one of the great family
of Friendly Societies, may nobly do its part in the great work which
lies before it, and be a power of usefulness in disseminating the
benefits it has undertaken to bestow, must be the earnest prayer of
every true Forester.

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