

objection in many English periodicals, even in that standard old organ of Church and State, the *Quarterly Review*. What I meant then as always was explained in the few words which Sir Frederick Young read from a letter which was written at his own request to soothe the lacerated feelings of the Society: "We have already made such great progress that Canada possesses many of the attributes of a nation, and the time is fast approaching when statesmen must decide whether these national elements are to resolve themselves into the empire at large or into a separate power." These explanatory words appear to have satisfied the super-sensitive members of the Society and there is little doubt that they retired to their clubs and homes in the proud consciousness of having placed Canada in its proper place, and given some additional guarantees for the security of the British Empire. If I refer to the subject again it is because there are perhaps some persons even now ready to take exception to the use of the word "national" in connection with Canada. One can hardly believe it, however, in the face of the fact that we have made such progress of late that we have already a "National Policy" as the emanation of the wisdom of a political party now in power for many years—a "National Policy" which is essentially Canadian in its scope and intention and places English commercial interests on the same footing that it places those of any other country that is foreign in the real sense of the term.

The words which were read at the Colonial Institute may be considered the key-note of this paper. No one who considers the political development of Canada within a century and less, but must recognize that there has been a Destiny shaping her ends steadily in the direction of national advancement. In the early autumn of 1792, the first representative assembly of the new province of Upper Canada held its first session on the banks of the picturesque Niagara River in a humble wooden building which has long since disappeared. In the same year, in the month of December, the French Canadians found themselves represented for the first time in