

## THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT LOWELL.<sup>1</sup>

THIS is really a great compliment—to a near neighbour! For more than a decade I have been attending university celebrations in this country, and on occasions where delegates were divided into two great classes—American and European—it was not always easy for me to see where Canada came in. The only thing I was always clear about, in my own mind, was that Canada is not in Europe!

It is indeed on many grounds a peculiar pleasure to appear to-day as the representative of Canadian education. Perhaps among other capacities I am here as a living witness to the doctrine of presidential succession! Thirteen or fourteen years ago President Eliot was good enough to journey to Montreal in order to take part in a much less imposing ceremonial than this. He may be said, in fact, to have "laid hands upon me" when I arrived in Canada to take over the administration of McGill University; and now I in turn am helping to lay hands—not violent hands!—on his successor.

And just about the time when you were celebrating, quite recently, the 300th anniversary of John Harvard's birthday, we were commemorating, up in Canada, the 300th anniversary of Champlain's foundation of Quebec. The course of events has been somewhat different in the two countries. We cannot forget that for 140 years Harvard was British. And in listening to a Canadian address you cannot but remember that Canada shares with you the majestic inheritance of a common language and that she has forged a strong link in the chain which still binds the United States to the United Kingdom.

<sup>1</sup> Harvard University, 6 October, 1909.