

Edward Island and New Brunswick, back to Quebec, Ontario (I will not mention any other provinces because these former were the limits of Canada when you came away), you look back and see the old firesides gleaming, and see there the dear old mother, the father, your brothers and your sisters. You never get away from them. New York with all its wiles can never, never destroy the old home ties, knitted in you when you were born. The maples of our country, its brooks, its fields, its bright skies form a part of yourself and you will never get away from them. It is the inherent spirit that germinates in the birth and incorporates itself in the upbuilding of the child and he carries it with him wherever he goes and it makes him a better citizen in the country of his adoption. It is not a thing to be deplored, it is a thing to thank God for daily that those impressions of youth and the attachments thereof remain with us. They are the purifying influences of the later days when we have so many temptations to meet and so many difficulties to solve. So when I look upon your faces I know that what you are thinking about tonight is the scenes and memories of the old land when you were boys and girls there.

However, once you are away from frequent contact with the old places, other loves, other employments and the pursuits of business engross your attention that you cannot always be thinking about the old land, and gradually the haze of distance thickens, impressions become less vivid and less strong and your connections with the old land in the way of news are not well kept up, so I imagine that, as I stand before you tonight, the question in your minds is, "How are they getting along in the old land? We get scraps of news, but we don't quite know what you have been doing there all these years. Can you tell us something?"

There is just my trouble. If I erected the old fireside here for the moment and asked you to sit by while I told you a tithe of all that has been going on in Canada for the last fifty years we would be here pretty nearly until next Christmas. So I cannot undertake that. The most I can do is to flash on here and there a rough outline and allow you to fill in. Well, we have been "going on" in Canada for the last fifty years. Since we became one Dominion we have been going on. We have been "going