

ADDRESS

BY B. E. WALKER, ESQ.,

TO

THE CANADIAN CLUB, OTTAWA,

FEBRUARY 4TH, 1904.

In the last ten or fifteen years there has been a great growth in our confidence as to the solidarity of the scattered provinces and territories now comprised in Canada. We have at last come to believe that we are to be a nation. I am aware that there are those who will deny the propriety of using such a word to describe our political condition. But the Scotch are a nation, the Irish are a nation, and I shall speak of Canada as a nation. We are rapidly developing a great confidence in our future, and great confidence in the future of a young country is apt to take the form of boasting about it. We talk constantly about the size of Canada, its vast natural resources, its immense potency in producing natural wealth, and we take credit for all this just as if we Canadians had created Canada. Instead of this we should remember every day of our lives, with bowed heads, that Canada was made for us and for our heirs, and that we are merely stewards for posterity, answerable as we do well or ill by Canada. This confidence, however, as to what Canada will do *for us* is an agreeable change from the fears expressed by the doubting Thomases of the past, but it should always be accompanied by a grave and reverent sense of what we should do for Canada—a very different sort of problem from what Canada should do for us.

Before we approach in detail the duty of Canadians to Canada, let us set forth what will constitute success in the development of Canada; what will be a satisfactory fulfilment of our duty to Canada. An answer in a broad sense is not diffi-