

THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE NATIONAL ANTHEMAN ADDRESS BY VEN. ARCHDEACON CODY,
D.D., LL.D.*Before the Empire Club of Canada, Toronto,
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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The subject on which I am to speak is always timely. Never was it more timely than to-day. The subject is, "The History and Present Significance of Our National Anthem." Someone has said, "Let me make the songs of a nation, and I care not who make their laws." That epigrammatic statement has a heart of truth. Among the potent factors in developing and enriching our patriotism is the constant singing of our national anthem. The smouldering fires of patriotism have in these latter days burst forth into a blazing flame. Everywhere men are arising to strive and to sacrifice that the goodly heritage of our Empire shall not pass away. We nourish and stimulate our patriotism by the solemn singing together of this hymn of our race.

The use of particular words and music formally to express the patriotic creed of a country is a comparatively modern ceremonial. Our own British National Anthem is probably the oldest of all the national anthems in current use to-day. The national anthem of the French, the Marseillaise, dates from 1792. It sets the blood of the whole nation tingling. When sung by armies with eyes now weeping and then all ablaze, it has hurled upon their foes the thousands of France defying danger, death and despotism. The national anthem of Austria was inspired by our own national anthem and dates from the year 1797. The