

and progress initiated; and Toronto, with her universities, with her law courts, with her various religious communities, her learned professions, possesses in an exceptional degree those conditions which are most favourable to the raising up amongst us of great and able men, as well as robust and fruitful systems of religious, political, and scientific thought." Possessed of these conditions, her citizens should not fail to make the fullest and worthiest use of them, but give free play to those formative influences that make for the highest weal of the community, and that will most effectively contribute to her civic fame.

The past history of Toronto is the best augury of what her future will be. It is only three-quarters of a century since the tract of land now embraced in the city was covered by the forest, and the whole region, as the records of the Indian Department of the Government declare, passed at a cost of ten shillings from the red man to the white. The successive transforming steps from a wilderness to a capital city now read like a fable. But to the pioneers of the town, slow and toilsome, we may be sure, were the initial stages; and only stout arms and heroic endurance set the city upon its feet. Then, when Nature was subdued, what contests had to be entered upon, and how fierce were the struggles, which gave to the country its liberties and shaped for it its constitution! Think, too, from what, in the way of kingcraft and Old World diplomacy, it had to emancipate itself! "Mind what you are about in Canada!" were the irate words addressed by King William IV. to one of his ministers. "By —, I will never consent to alienate the Crown Lands, nor to make the Council elective!" But a happier star is now in the ascendant. The days of colonial pupilage are over; the strifes of the cradle time of the Province are gone by; and it is now the era of progress and consolidation, of national growth and the formation of national character. We have no troublesome questions to vex us and to waste time over: we have a high mission to fulfill, and a distinctive life to develop. Education is spreading, and its refining influence is everywhere operative. Party and sectarian animosities are on the wane; and the influence of reason in journalism and politics is asserting itself. Let there be but more patriotic feeling, a fuller national sentiment, with a more expressive public spirit, and a better determined civic life, and the metropolis of the Province will take its proper position among the varied communities of the Dominion.