

in their infancy, possess an indescribable fascination. They carry one back, through ages of ages, to the very foundation of the earth, and seem to be as much out of place in this intensely modern age as a mastodon or a megalosaurus.

### **The Parliament Buildings.**

Much has been said and written about the grace, beauty and dignity of the Canadian Houses of Parliament, but to know how far short of the reality falls all the praise that has been lavished upon them, one must see them in the early morning, from some such vantage point as the opposite shore of the river, the bridge at the Chaudiere, Nepean Point, or, perhaps, from that spot in front of Rideau Hall, which was the favourite point of view of the Princess Louise, when she occupied the Vice-Regal mansion for a few years. In the early morning hour when the rising sun turns roof and gable tower, spire and steeple, into a vision of glowing and inimitable beauty; when their noble Gothic outlines seem to be part and parcel of the bold promontory on which they stand, one appreciates the force of Sir William Van Horne's striking comparison of this group of buildings to "a majestic grove of pines." It is difficult to know which to commend most highly, the perfect symmetry of the buildings themselves, with their pure and graceful outlines, or the unrivalled felicity of the site, the perfect harmony between the work of man and the work of nature. Even the fastidious eye of a Ruskin could have found neither fault nor weakness in this architectural picture.

### **Ottawa a Continuous Park.**

Perhaps, however, from a picturesque point of view, what would strike the outside visitor more even than her parks, is the delightfully refreshing greenness of Ottawa's boulevards. The practice of abolishing fences has become almost universal in the Canadian Capital. Most of the best residential streets give the appearance of a wide avenue,