

of social life and destroy the permanency of the family, the true basis of the happiness and security of every community that aims at real greatness. This is but one instance out of many that I could cite to prove to you how necessary it is to study thoroughly and conscientiously the social as well as the political conditions of communities, in order to accumulate those experiences which may assist us in moulding and perfecting our own institutions. There is no institution or law that we may adopt, that will not have some effect upon our social and political development.

In conclusion, I can only say we have much to look forward to in this country if we are wise and prudent in profiting by the best experience of other peoples, and in avoiding the quicksands into which indiscreet politicians and dangerous theorists would ever and anon push Canada. Twenty-two years have passed since we entered on the new political era which Confederation has opened up to this Dominion, and we have achieved an encouraging amount of success through the sagacity, perseverance and hopefulness of our statesmen, and the industry, energy and patriotism of the people who have faith in this country and its future. We have achieved this success through the exertions of two races, different in language, in religion, and in certain institutions, but equally allied by the ties of a common interest. The one can gain much from the other: the energy, the common sense and the forbearance characteristic of Englishmen, can well be associated with the brilliancy, the ardour, and the sanguine temperament of the French race. But whatever may be their points of difference, a study of institutions will teach them both to value the great principles and maxims on which rest the foundations of English liberty, and which illustrate the pages of England's noblest history; and it is from the love of her people for home and social purity, from their assertion of free thought and free speech, and from their encouragement of political morality, above all other things, that Canadians can best gather true inspiration and sound example, which will enable them to steer the ship of state into a haven where it will rest secure from the storms that ever threaten its safety.

"—sail on, O Ship of State?
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity, with all its fears
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate.
* * *
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee,—are all with thee."