

between the people of your country and of ours is a work which commends itself to all good citizens of either country, and we are glad to bear testimony to your praiseworthy conduct in this respect. We believe it is but the uncolored truth to say that all who have had the pleasure of your acquaintance here have received a more favorable impression of the people of the United States than they had before. We beg you to accept our assurance that wherever your new field of labor may be allotted, you will be followed in it by the heartfelt esteem of the people of this city, and we shall hear of your prosperity with the pleasure which friendly feelings kindle. With hearty good will we offer you our earnest hopes for the health, comfort and happiness of yourself and family. May you and they be long spared to lives of usefulness and honor, and may we, your friends in Hamilton, obtain a place among your pleasant recollections. On behalf of your Hamilton friends.

B. E. CHARLTON, Mayor.

The toast was honored with prolonged cheers, the band playing "He's a jolly good fellow."

MR. BLAKE'S REPLY.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

It has been said, the lack of power of expression deprives the world of many a noble sentiment. Be this as it may, many of us know full well it is often impossible to find language to express the emotions that possess and control us; yet, believe me, gentlemen, however meagre my words may seem to night, my heart is eloquent. A generous friendship makes the whole world kin.

Allow me to return my most hearty thanks for the cordial good will manifested towards me during my residence in Hamilton, arising more, perhaps, from the kindness of your hearts than from any real merit I may possess. And I would thank you more particularly, gentlemen, for this present expression of your esteem. That I consider myself honored, and that I shall look back to this occasion as one of the bright pages in my life, you may be assured. As we grow in years we are apt to look backward for the sun-lit spots, and enjoy in retrospect what younger people do in anticipation.

Eight years ago last March, President Lincoln sent me to Canada to represent a nation which his wisdom and sagacity had freed from the stigma of human slavery, and upon the fourteenth of the next month he sealed the emancipation of the black man with his blood. In the language of your Poet Laureate—

"He knew the seasons, when to take  
Occasion by the hand, and make  
The bounds of freedom wider yet,  
By shaping some august decree,  
Which kept his throne unshaken still,  
Broad-based upon his people's will."

Then came the administration of President Johnson, during which transpired the Fenian Raid, and for a few days Canada was the scene of the only warlike demonstration on this continent, and I believe at that time, in the world. But those exciting scenes belong to the past and I see no reason to-day why peace as well as prosperity should not abide within your borders.

To be sure, I have heard it intimated in some quarters that you would like to annex Maine, my native State, and New Hampshire to the Dominion; but upon reflection I think you must conclude you have quite enough territory of your own, and to improve and utilize this would be more practical and practicable than to cast longing eyes upon your neighbor's lands; for even if we do not love our neighbors sufficiently to give them our inheritance, we can at least come near enough to the Bible rule to leave them in peaceable possession of their own.

A little over four years ago I removed to the Consulate at Hamilton, receiving a new commission from President Grant, our former General, whose policy "*to fight it out on this line*," conquered the Rebellion and made an end of the civil strife.

This foreign shore of Ontario washed by a chain of glorious lakes and rivers, I have found a goodly land to dwell in, and although the nationality of these same lakes and rivers may be somewhat mixed, they have proved an equal blessing to the countries they separate, and in fact the United States and Canada have many blessings in common.

The freedom of opinion which has done so much for the political and religious liberty of the United States has not been confined to that portion of the American Continent. The same freedom prevails throughout Canada to-day. The same industry and enterprise have secured to you prosperity and happy homes, and in other countries genius, science and energy are soaring above the high places of birth and pageantry.

Even the Japanese are awakening to a sense of the value of this progressive element and have not only employed foreign teachers to initiate the rising generation into the good old English tongue, but have chosen an American to revise their statutes, and have constituted him Court Lawyer. I am glad to find that the city of Hamilton is also proffering aid, in the way of useful inventions, to their Japanese brethren, one of your enterprising manufacturers having this week sent to Japan the useful, invincible and omnipresent sewing machine.

A missionary work doubtless, but one which our disinterested friend devoutly prays may prove remunerative.

The various agricultural implements, machines for simplifying and economizing labor, the wonderful stretches of Railroad intersecting the country at every point, the numerous manufactures springing up wherever we gaze, point out for your country and for mine, triumphs greater by far than those of war, for the former develop the means of supporting our population, while the latter ministers to its destruction.