

of the People; a sixth, bearing the name of Canada's most ancient city; a seventh, bearing the name of our own beloved Montreal, rivalling in point of capital invested every banking institution on this continent, and surpassed in that respect only by the two greatest financial institutions of the world, the Bank of England and the Bank of France. Were we to look around from the spot where we are now assembled, many other important structures, indicating important enterprises, would be seen. All around are grouped other financial institutions of character and name. Here a building demands our interest from the massiveness of its structure, another from the beauty of its design, another from the ambitious height to which it has attained—when filled, as beehives are filled, with human beings engaged in every department of industrial or professional life. All over the slope, from the base of the Montreal mount to the St. Lawrence, palatial residences or humble dwellings, or work-shops or factories, or offices cover the land and give evidence of industry and frugality long continued in security and peace. But he would see much more. He would see what is greater than wealth and all that wealth can procure. He would see around him evidence of the inner life of the people, incomparably more important than all external greatness. Montreal is, emphatically, a city of churches, and a church, Mr. President, dedicated to the living God is, whatever may be its tenets, an outward manifestation of the inner life of those who erected it. In front of this imposing structure to which the face of de Maisonneuve is turned, I cannot help admiring the lot, hard in the beginning, softened as time wore on, of the descendants of those early, those intrepid pioneers! From the rising of the sun to the going down thereof may be seen, at all seasons, grouped around the altar of this colossal edifice, Notre-Dame, on the shores of the St. Lawrence, a peace-loving, a God-fearing, a pious and a contented people; and all over the city those of other creeds and of other nationalities are not less grateful for the happiness and for the liberty of conscience which they enjoy. Mr. Chairman, Montreal is tardy in erecting monuments to her great men. She has been singularly slow in recording her sense of the obligation which she owes to her great founder. And why? In the pages of history, the name of Paul de Maisonneuve occurs as that of one uniting intrepid daring with a gentleness almost maidenly, a devotion to duty, however hazardous in execution, and an obedience the most complete to the details of honor and of duty. This trait of de Maisonneuve's is wisely recorded on one of the tablets. When attempts were made to dissuade him from attempting an enterprise fraught with peril, he replied: "Honor and duty alike impel me, and I shall go, even were every tree on the island of Montreal an Iroquois." But more than 250 years after this occurred, he is "first seen in acts of prowess eminent," recorded in durable brass. To you citizens of Montreal, who have procured the means wherewith to erect this tribute of gratitude, it must be to you, as

it is to every one of patriotic feeling, a matter of pride and satisfaction that the genius of a young Canadian has conceived and imagined, and the cunning of his right hand has shaped and fashioned this beautiful, this finished work of art. Let us hope that statues of Jacques Cartier, the discoverer of Canada; and yet of another, Cartier, the wise legislator; and of a Logan, who studied so diligently and so well the geology and paleontology of this country; and of a Lafontaine, who left the impress of his great mind on our statute book; and of another, one of the most gentle characters, that so beautiful in his untimely death, de Lorimier; and others that do not occur to me at the instant may follow quickly to show that Canada, too, has had her great men and that she is willing to do them honor. If we may differ as to the men who should be honored, there is a female figure, which the artist has placed on a corner here, the effigy of one great in heroism as de Maisonneuve himself, and, for a woman, greater, for she trusted herself to an almost unknown sea and to a handful of sailors, that she might come to these shores to tend the sick and the wounded. And when, for one hundred and fifty years, the institution she established was the only one in this city devoted to the alleviation of human suffering, Miss Mance should not be forgotten in the eventful ceremony of this day, and as the day of woman's rights, I hope the ladies who hear me may exercise their privilege in her regard."

Sir William then said a few words in favor of preserving, with the greatest care everything relating to the early history of the country, and commended in an especial manner the work of the Numismatic society and of the de Ramezay collection.

DISCOURS DE M. L'ABBÉ COLIN,

Supérieur de Saint-Sulpice.

Excellence,

M. le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Lorsqu'est tombé le voile qui nous dérobait la statue, je ne sais quel frémissement de joie mêlée d'admiration a passé par toutes les poitrines: une grande figure nous apparaissait, et avec cette figure, les plus nobles traits de notre histoire, les plus beaux souvenirs de la nation.

Saluons le fondateur, le père de Montréal, l'un des insignes bienfaiteurs du pays, l'un de ses libérateurs, l'illustre de Maisonneuve, notre gloire; saluons-le avec un juste enthousiasme.

Quel étonnement pour ce grand homme de se revoir après deux cent trente ans d'absence, au sein de cette ville opulente. En présence de ces riches palais, de ces somptueuses constructions, de ces gigantesques voies