

Sublime Folly.

Sublimest folly !—from their camps uprise
 Two mighty armies, eager for the fray ;
 The drum-beat rolls, the brazen trumpets bray,
 And guns and bayonets flash against the skies.
 Now shall be shown on which side victory lies ;
 Swords gleam, the booming cannon hurl dismay,
 The quick, sharp rifle-shots for death make way,
 On high the bird of evil omen cries.
 Men fall as in the field the full ripe grain
 Where bending reapers swing the sickle's blade.
 In ranks they fall, never to rise again—
 But wherefore the dread holocaust thus made ?
 That past all doubt man may make this truth plain,
 On honor, more than life, his heart is stayed.
 —Bishop Spalding's "Songs, chiefly from the German."

Canadian Historical Exhibition.

AN important meeting of the committee of this Association was held on Thursday, 16th April, at the Canadian Institute. The object of the meeting was to present reports of progress to the Honorary President of the Association, His Excellency the Governor-General, and to the Countess of Aberdeen.

Their Excellencies and his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario were attended by Capt. Bretherton, A.D.C. They were received and conducted to the dais, erected in the library of the Institute, by the Executive Chairman, O. A. Howland, M.P.P., the four secretaries, David Boyle, Ph.D., Miss FitzGibbon, Eustace Smith, and J. Castell Hopkins, and by the other members of the committee in attendance. The spacious library of the Institute was filled with a large audience among whom were Rev. Chancellor Burwash, Rev. Prof. Clark, D.C.L., Mr. Archibald MacMurchy, Rev. Father Ryan, Mr. James L. Hughes, Prof. A. B. MacCallum, ex-Mayor Kennedy, Alds. Hallam, Scott, Graham and Preston, James Bain, LL.D., J. C. Copp, E. H. Morphy, Rev. Provost Welch, Mr. Hamilton MacCarthy, Prof. Wrong, Mr. E. M. Chadwick, Mr. Willison, Mr. Wetherston, Mr. Corelly, Mr. McLean, Mr. Challoner, Mr. E. Wyly Grier, Dr. Bryce, Mr. Tilley, Government Inspector of Schools, and others. Among the ladies in the audience were: Mrs. Maclaren and Miss Maclaren, of Perth, Mrs. Wm. Merritt, Miss Merritt, Mrs. H. K. Merritt, Mrs. Farrer, Mrs. Willmott, Mrs. Winstanley, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, Mrs. Willison.

The Countess of Aberdeen, on taking her seat, was presented with a beautiful bouquet of white roses by Miss Maclaren, daughter of Senator Maclaren, of Perth.

After his Excellency had taken the chair, Mr. Howland as executive chairman of the committee, after a few introductory remarks, begged His Excellency's permission to commence the business of the meeting by asking Mr. Boyle, the Secretary, to read the following address and report of the work of the Committee:—

"May it please your Excellency,—The members of the Committee of the Canadian Historical Association have the honour to report to you the progress that has been made in the undertaking to which you have so kindly lent your countenance and aid.

"May the Committee at the outset be permitted to express their sense of the consideration you have shown them in consenting, in the midst of your numerous duties, to be present on this occasion, and preside in virtue of your office as Honorary President of this Association. They would desire at the same time to repeat the assurances of their appreciation of your kindness in acceding at an early stage in the movement to the request of the Committee to accept the position of Honorary President, thus giving the project at that early stage the great benefit of your sanction and invaluable co-operation.

"The Committee also desire to express their indebtedness to her Excellency for the encouraging interest she has constantly exhibited in the cause, and the expression of her willingness to bring her influence to bear upon those Associations of which she is the honoured head to also become co-operators.

"The Committee are gratified to be able to report that the progress made under these encouraging auspices, is

even greater than it would have been reasonable to expect at this period in the history of so large an undertaking, and one so novel to the experience of this young country.

"Your Excellency is aware from previous reports and communications of the widely-extended expressions of sympathy and approval that the committee of the Association have obtained from the universities and learned societies of the Dominion. The list has recently been so far completed that the Association has the full concurrence, and is assured of the active aid of these institutions, representing the learning and historical zeal of all the provinces of Canada. Not only so, but we have had proofs by personal and written communication from many quarters in the United States that we may depend upon hearty co-operation from similar bodies in that quarter. Among those from whom such assurances have been received are the President of Michigan University, professors of Harvard University, the director of the Field Columbian Museum at Chicago, and active members of the historical societies of several of the Western cities in the United States. I might state that one of these, the city of Cleveland, is preparing to hold this year a celebration of the anniversary of its foundation, and no doubt many interesting collections will be gathered together on that occasion, which may be contributory to the more complete historical collection to be presented in Canada in 1897.

"Your committee take particular pleasure in referring to a letter received from an eminent and influential American statesman, General Butterworth, in which he states that should the Association receive the recognition and support of the Dominion and Ontario Governments, he has no doubt that the authorities at Washington will be pleased to render whatever assistance lies in their power in furthering the interests of the Exhibition.

"We have now fortunately arrived at the position indicated in the foregoing letter. An Act has been passed at the recent session of the Legislature of this Province providing for the constitution of an incorporated public commission, to consist of two members nominated on behalf of the Government of Canada, two representing the Province of Ontario, two by the city of Toronto, and six to be nominated by this committee on behalf of the Association, of which your Excellency is President.

"To lend further dignity and importance to the commission so provided for, an Act has been introduced into the Parliament of Canada, and has already passed the Senate, ratifying the authority to your Excellency-in-Council in respect to the two appointments to be made upon the commission, and confirming on behalf of the Parliament of Canada the authority of the commission to invite the presence of a Royal personage and of other official and representative guests and delegates from the Empire and foreign countries.

"In respect to the financial prospects and programme contemplated by the committee, it may be shortly stated that the Act, in addition to placing at the disposal of the committee all the accommodation required for its purposes in the Provincial and University buildings in Toronto, enables it to obtain a revenue from entrance privileges and other sources usual in such cases.

"It further provides for debentures being issued by the commission to the amount of \$25,000, chargeable on these expected receipts. The plan of the commission to ask a moderate proportion of this issue of debentures to be guaranteed by various Governments and authorities interested, probably to the extent of \$75,000. This guarantee will be applied to a deferred portion of the debentures, leaving a reasonable amount to stand as a preferential or first charge upon the anticipated receipts.

"Preliminary communications have already been had with the railway companies, with the result of obtaining a favourable expression of opinion towards this scheme of finance and towards the proposal that the various classes of debentures should be accepted by the railways in payment of the services to be asked of them in travelling expenses of the officials of the commission and in the transport of exhibits. Those employed as secretaries and other assistants of the commission it is expected will accept debentures as remuneration for their services. A reserve out of the daily receipts for carrying on the exhibition is provided for of \$50,000.

"The next step will be to make formal application at the right moment to the various Governments which will be interested in the success of the project. The Committee do