

this year on Canada, by blessing it with an abundant harvest, which has fortunately been accompanied by a visible improvement in the condition of commerce and manufactures. As to these benefits, we have not deserved them more than other people, who have not had the advantage of seeing their land, cultivated by their labour, produce with equal abundance. It is for this reason our gratitude should be so much more intense, more sincere, towards Providence, whose designs are unfathomable, and who often cherishes and saves all, by trials to a nation, as to individuals. And how could we prove it better than by joining cordially in the generous thought expressed in the Speech of His Excellency, to take a little of our abundance so as to contribute to the relief of the sufferings of an unfortunate people who are passing through the horrors of famine? I am happy that the Government of His Excellency should have suggested this practical means of coming to the assistance of our brothers in Ireland in the days of distress through which they are passing. It is an example of generosity given with delicacy, and which will no doubt produce its fruits. This substantial mark of our sympathy will touch the grateful hearts of the high-minded Irish people, and will draw still closer, if it be possible, the numerous bonds of firm friendship which unite them already to Canada. Not only do we compassionate their present misery, but I think there cannot be a single Canadian, of whatever origin he may be, who does not wish—while recognising, on the one hand, the moderation, the prudence, the nobility of the guides of public opinion at home, and on the other the wisdom and the liberality of the Mother Country—to see disappear one day the political causes, the origin of which takes us back to the struggles and revolutions of the Middle Ages, and to which is due, at least in part, the periodical return of these times of distress. I consider that we should be unworthy of the sweet and ample liberty which we enjoy, if we did not desire at the same time to see it shared by all our fellow-creatures, above all by those who live under the shadow of the same flag as ourselves and whose brilliant genius has already distinguished itself in arts, literature and science, from the first ages of our era, when the greater part of the nations

which we admire at the present time were much less advanced in civilisation. To bind up the wound which, by impoverishing and embittering Ireland, embarrasses and weakens Great Britain itself, and that without violent revolution, but by purely initiatory remedies, is indeed one of the greatest social problems which has ever commanded the attention of publicists, politicians, and rulers, and the happy solution of which would make its authors more illustrious than the conquest of whole continents. Trusting in the sagacity of British statesmen, as well as in that tendency which, in our time, manifests itself a little everywhere, even in Scotland and England, I do not despair of seeing that desirable solution arrived at, which not only would renew the aspect of Ireland and increase still more the prestige and power of Great Britain, but would have, moreover, consequences almost incalculable for mankind. Picture to yourself Ireland, with her five millions of inhabitants, pacified, prosperous and happy, by the side of Great Britain, with which she has really so many identical interests, ten millions of Irish people spread over the five parts of the globe, living contentedly under the shadow of the same flag as the sons of England and of Scotland, and the rival powers or enemies not daring any longer to count upon the discontent of the Irish in order to paralyse part of the strength of the British Empire, and you will certainly agree with me that it would be a change, the consequences of which, happy without any doubt, for these three beautiful countries, whose interests are intimately bound together by nature, by their geographical position, and which ought to be so too by the aspirations of their respective inhabitants, would exercise a considerable influence on the modern world; and I think it would be equally for the better as to us Canadians. With regard even to the interests of our country, we should have to congratulate ourselves on the disappearance of a discontent and an agitation which, carried to the United States with the tide of Irish emigration, have already obliged us to spend large sums of money in order to provide for our safety in the past, and which have not yet ceased completely to be a danger for the maintenance of friendly relations with our neighbours for the future. Less than