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Patriotism. During the past months Canada has been liberally praised. She has been and is being called patriotic because in the hour of Britain's need she eagerly afforded help, and when victory came to the imperial forces she rejoiced as heartily as even the Motherland. But now that the pealing of bells and the booming of cannon have died away even to the echoes, and street-processions along with patriotic concerts have ceased for a little, one may venture to ask whether any of these stirring events of the past weeks, or all of them, in themselves constitute indubitable evidence of the patriotism of Canada. They do affirm that Canadians regard the enemies of Britain her own enemies, and rejoice in their downfall. They affirm that in Canada there are those who will not shrink from the hardships and perils of war when the national honor is to be defended. They affirm many things, but do they affirm in any specially distinct way the patriotism of the people? One may venture to question that they do, even though one feel like perturbation with those unfortunates whose distorted vision has betrayed them into seeing something of justice in the Boer claims.

The circumstances that evoked first the ready offer of aid, and afterward the demonstrations of joy were not such as call out expressions of highest sentiments. Men were needed, it is true, in South Africa to kill other men who were obstinately arrayed against the Empire, fighting, as they said, for freedom and home, as England averred for the maintenance of a cruel despotism entrenched in selfishness and greed; and when many men had been slain on both