

than half a continent in space and through centuries of conflict in time. But when the student of history comes to the more recent period from which Canadian evolution dates, in a modern sense, he finds with some few exceptions that the annals of the country are made to turn primarily upon political considerations—from the standpoint of the experience of to-day and with the logic of present liberties.

To this school of historical thought men of a hundred years ago should have acted exactly as men at the end of this century would act—no matter how different the conditions and environment. To these writers, for instance, the Loyalists were simply a band of Tories bent upon fettering the minds of the people in the swaddling clothes of state-churchism and under the personal control of an interested oligarchy. In the dense clouds of controversy thus raised it has been too often forgotten that they were, incidentally, the founders of the English part of the Canadian commonwealth, the preservers of its youthful institutions from the aggressive influence of United States democracy, the conservators of British ideals and principles in this northern part of the American continent, the sufferers from pioneer hardships, dangers and difficulties, so severe and so numerous as to have merited for them a permanent place in any Valhalla of the world's patriotism. So also with other important matters.

In the pages which follow I have therefore laid more stress upon pioneer labours in the field and

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