

Gentlemen, why should it not be the same with us who are called upon to solidly build up the great edifice of the Canadian nation? Why should we not devote all our energies to combining the qualities and virtues of the races from which we descend?

From a religious standpoint, we are of different beliefs and each of us is strongly attached to that which he learned at his mother's knee. But, at bottom, we are all agreed to accept the principles of the Gospel and the fundamental laws of civilization as the basis of our social organization.

Why then should we heed radical differences in mentality, diversity of language, the boundaries of various provinces, if we agree that each shall retain for himself and respect in others the characteristic features of the grand races from which we have sprung; if we succeed in combining, for common effort: the business sense, the indomitable coolheadedness and perseverance of the English and Scotch; the impetuous character and irresistible humour of the Irish; the sparkling wit and vivacity of the French, with their passion for sacrifice in their pursuit of the ideal and in the defence of noble causes, and lastly, the virtues and qualities of the other races which come to join us in fulfilling Canada's destinies?

What a bright dream! and what a great people we should be if we could make it come true!"