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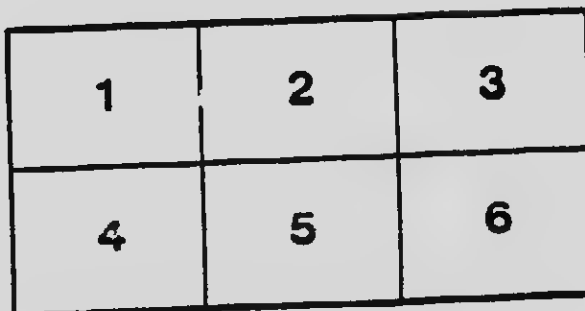
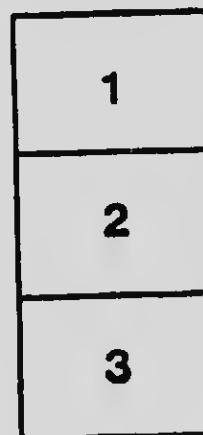
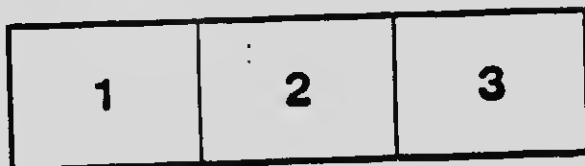
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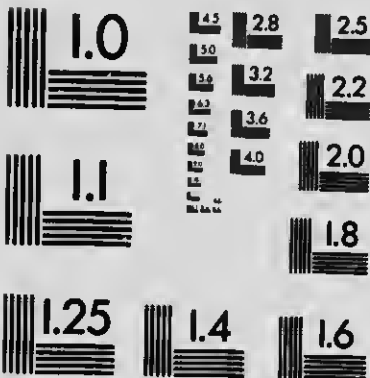
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7

Trafalgar Day at Ottawa



CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR
BY THE CHILDREN OF THE SCHOOLS

1905-



ADMIRAL LORD NELSON.



TRAFALGAR DAY AT OTTAWA.

On Saturday the 21st October, 1905, the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar was fittingly celebrated by the school-children of Ottawa.

The celebration took the form of placing a large wreath of maple leaves on the statue of Queen Victoria on Parliament Hill.

All the school children of the city met at their respective schools and marched with their teachers to Parliament Square. Many of them wore suitable buttons, ribbons, maple leaves, etc., and several hundred carried Union Jacks which they waved from time to time.

One of the most interesting features of the celebration was the presence of the Trustees and pupils of the different educational institutions of both nationalities, who united in doing homage to the memory of the man who did so much for England and Canada.

The children sang "God Save The King" on the arrival of the Governor-General.

Dr. J. F. White, Principal of the Normal School, introduced the Governor-General in the following address:—

"Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen:—To-day we have beheld the unusual sight of school children gladly giving up their holiday and, accompanied by their teachers, marching in large numbers to this place of meeting to listen to an address from Your Excellency, and to place a wreath of maple leaves upon the statue of our late beloved Queen. The occasions that could call forth such a display of enthusiastic loyalty are few, and great indeed was the event of which we celebrate to-day the hundredth anniversary—the glorious victory of England's greatest and best

beloved naval hero Nelson. For this event was not merely the complete triumph of Britain's navy over a brave and chivalrous foe, but it secured England from the danger of threatened invasion and gave her the unquestioned supremacy of the seas which ever since she has proudly maintained. To other states of Europe Nelson's great victory resulted ultimately in bringing the blessing of peace and in freeing them from the yoke of foreign tyranny. Therefore it is fitting that without distinctions of any kind all Canadians should join with other British subjects the world over in honouring the memory of Nelson and in rejoicing at the blessings he secured for us. It is, perhaps, worthy of remark that when this victory was announced one hundred years ago, the French population of Canada united with their English fellow citizens in celebrating the event, even as their descendants are doing to-day.

"For the young there are many valuable lessons to be learned from a study of Nelson's life and character, his high sense of honour and fair play, his noble devotion to duty, his fixed determination to win success, his unflinching thoughtfulness and kindness towards his men, which won for him their greatest affection and devotion. When suffering intense agony from a wound he supposed mortal, he yet refused to be treated out of his turn, when he writes that he desires victory, not for his own glory, but to bring peace and happiness to his country, his words and deeds should be inspiring not only to the youth of England, but to those of every land, and to-day his famous message, 'England expects that every man will do his duty,' is one that is full of significance for all of us.

"Children of the city of Ottawa: I have great pleasure in introducing to you His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, and in requesting him to address you in relation to this celebration. The motto of his family—'De bon vouloir servir le roy,' (to serve the King with might and main), is a noble one, and one that has been well lived up to. Two former Governors—Lord Elgin and Lord Durham—were members of his family

and rendered valuable service to Canada. Since his coming here the present Governor has proved himself to be a most worthy representative of our gracious and beloved King. He has shown special interest in schools and school children, and I am convinced that this large gathering will give him a very favourable opinion of the boys and girls of Ottawa. I am sure that you will let me say for you that you desire him to convey your loyal greetings to His Majesty King Edward VII., wishing him a long and prosperous reign."

His Excellency then spoke as follows:

It is a pretty thought that has prompted you to come here to-day, on the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, in order that you may present the statue of Queen Victoria with a wreath of Canadian maple leaves, in honour of the immortal Nelson whose prowess gave her the Empire over which she reigned for upwards of half a century; and in order that you may give expression to your recognition of Nelson's services to you, as well as to the other 400,000,000 subjects of the King. The rights and liberties which you enjoy in Canada to-day, ay, and which the people of Europe also enjoy, were won by Nelson one hundred years ago in the Bay of Trafalgar, and it is only right and fitting that you should show your love for him and your appreciation of his achievements, by using your holiday to do honour to his memory.

"It is an interesting fact that never was any news received in any country with such universal lamentation, as was the news of the death of Nelson one hundred years ago, in Canada as well as England, for never did any man so entirely possess the love of his fellow countrymen. When the news of his death reached London strong men wept when they met each other in the streets, so greatly was Nelson loved, so identified was he with the cause which is dear to every Briton, and to every man who is a lover of freedom; for the cause for which Nelson fought and died, was not the triumph of one race over another, as ignorant people have sometimes imagined; it was the cause of freedom as opposed

to despotism, of self-government as opposed to autoeracy, of peaceful industrial development as opposed to militarism, of the equal rights of free men as opposed to the coercion of a tyrant. It was not only because Nelson, who, before his death was described as "Europe's hope and Britain's glory," gave with his life the blessings of freedom to the world, that he was so greatly beloved; but because he was as kind as he was brave, and because his mind was always fixed on honour which he valued far above riches, and because he believed others to be as noble as himself.

"When you read his history you will realize that men were always glad to work with Nelson or under Nelson, or to do anything for Nelson. A sunny influence radiated from him, which gave birth in the receptive soil of human nature to noble growths. He idealized every one about him; he invested them with a halo of excellence, and made them into heroes by allowing them to feel that he regarded them as such. When you become more familiar with his history you will realize that he was always impetuous and untiring in the pursuit of his country's good; that he always acted as he felt right without regard to custom, or without fear of consequences; and that his one and constant prayer inscribed for the last time in his Journal on the eve of his death was that the blessing of God might light upon his endeavours to serve his country faithfully.

"Boys and girls of Ottawa, I hope you will take some steps on every successive anniversary of Nelson's death which will emphasize in your own lives the importance of the Nelson ideal. I would have you remember that Nelson gladly died that the children of England and of France too might be free. I would also have you remember that each generation has to encounter enemies and evils of its own almost as formidable to its freedom and well-being as those which Nelson triumphantly overcame; and if you have a spark in your natures of what is known as the 'Nelson touch,' as I hope you have, and as I believe you will have if you are determined to have it, and if, like him, you have only one thought, how you can best promote the glory and honour of

your King and Country, then you boys can become, and you girls can help the boys to become, each of you, the Nelson of your generation."

The Hon. R. W. Scott then spoke as follows :—

"Your Excellency, Sons and Daughters of the Empire:— I know of no prouder title that I could give to the school children of Ottawa than class them as members of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, and I congratulate them on being residents of the fairest and happiest part of that Empire.

"After the inspiring address of His Excellency the Governor-General, I can scarcely hope to claim your attention for any lengthy remarks, and will endeavour to be brief.

"This centennial in memory of a great hero is unique in the annals of history, as on no former occasion have the praises of a great Admiral or General been re-echoed round the world as are those of Lord Nelson—on this the hundredth anniversary of his death. In far off Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific honours are being paid to his memory, and his gallant deeds are being recounted. As might naturally be expected the greatest enthusiasm will be exhibited in the British Isles, and particularly in the County of Norfolk where the hero was born. The day will also be honoured at Gibraltar and at Malta. Coming to the Continent of Asia, in India, Ceylon and some of the islands adjacent, the victory of Nelson will be recounted in presence of sympathetic audiences. In the British possessions on the east and west sides of the Continent of Africa the life and gallant deeds of Nelson will be recalled.

"In South Africa, which has been so largely added to in recent years, rejoicings will be held over areas that when I was a school boy were classed as unknown lands supposed to be part of the Great Sahara Desert.

"Now crossing the Atlantic Ocean to South America we find a loyal population celebrating the day in British Guiana, moving north to Jamaica and to the cluster of islands in the Carribean Sea where the Union Jack has been flying over many of them for

more than two centuries, they are to-day rejoicing over the great victory in Trafalgar Bay. And finally we reach the Dominion of Canada, the fairest land of all those portions of the Empire over which we have mentally travelled, and from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, a loyal population is remembering with gratitude how much we owe to the bravery of Nelson who sacrificed his life in successfully turning back and destroying the united fleets of France and Spain that were preparing to make a descent on the British Isles.

"The history of the British navy that now ranks supreme over all the nations of the world, and which owes so much to the fighting qualities of Nelson, goes back for over a thousand years. Even before the Saxon Heptarchy was formed Danes and Norsemen periodically made descents on Britain's coasts, and plundered the inhabitants. On an appeal to the Druids, who were the religious teachers before the introduction of Christianity, they gave out a prophecy which put in verse reads as follows:

'Until the oak shall thickly grow
A wall to compass Britain's shore
Her sons must fly before the foe
Her soil be reddened with their gore.'

"The Mariners of Britain, though at first discouraged, were not long in finding the true interpretation of the prophecy which found expression in the following lines:

'Our oaks when lanced upon the sea
Shall guard our native coast
And England's wooden walls shall be
Her best defence and boast.'

"Down through the centuries from the days of King Alfred the navy became the popular arm for the defence of the United Kingdom and while history records the names of many brave and gallant captains, yet posterity awards to Nelson the honour of ranking first among the Admirals who won renown and distinction. If peers there were I might name Drake and Howard who, in the reign of Elizabeth, under somewhat similar conditions that Nelson had to meet at Trafalgar, vanquished the Spanish

Armada, styled the Invincible, numbering 130 vessels when about to make a descent on Britain's coast.

"Remember this is not the first occasion that Canada has honoured Nelson! After the battle of the Nile in Aboukir Bay, in the year 1798, when Nelson defeated Napoleon's fleet the Catholic Archbishop of Quebec issued a *mandement* setting apart a day of thanksgiving to the Almighty for the victory and directing Te Deums to be sung in all the churches. Nelson's exclamation before commencing that engagement was typical of the man—'Victory or Westminster Abbey.'

"Among the many noteworthy elements in Nelson's character there are two that I would ask each one of you children of Ottawa to remember and adopt—first, his high sense of honour, and next, his firm adherence to duty. Let me give you an example of the first, when a boy at school and younger than many I see before me (for he went to sea as a midshipman at 12) Horatio and his elder brother William attended the village school which was some distance from their father's house. One winter morning they found the snow very deep and the day stormy; so before they had gone far on the road, they returned home and informed Mr. Nelson that the snow was too deep to venture. 'If that be indeed the case,' replied the father, 'you shall not go; but make another attempt, and I will leave it to your honour. If the road should be found dangerous, you may return. Yet, remember, boys! I leave it to your honour.' They accordingly proceeded, and, though various difficulties presented themselves which offered a plausible reason for their return home, Horatio was proof against them all, exclaiming, 'We have no excuse! Remember, brother, it was left to our honour.'

"The other characteristic which I would impress upon you to ever keep in mind and to adopt was his sense of duty. No doubt the words he signalled to every ship in the fleet before commencing the battle of Trafalgar 'England expects that every man will do his duty' had inspired officers and men to conquer or die. Treasure up those two principles,—a high sense of honour

and a determination on all occasions to do your duty, and be assured you will never regret acting on this advice. Your example will influence others. Guided by these two mental stars the world will be the better for your having lived in it. What a noble ambition to treasure up in your memory! Cultivate the thought and act upon it through life, and, as I said before, you will never regret accepting my counsel."

Mr. Stewart McClenaghan then moved, seconded by Mr. P. M. Côté, a vote of thanks to His Excellency for his kindness in addressing the school children. In moving the resolution, in a neat speech, Mr. McClenaghan, on behalf of the Public School Board and children present, thanked the Governor-General for his presence. The fact that they had the King's representative present added greatly to the occasion. The character of Nelson was one that appealed to the youth of the country probably more than any other character in British history. The demonstration to-day was but a small evidence of the great respect and admiration that the children have for all things pertaining to the British connection.

He could assure His Excellency that if at any time the signal came over the water that Britain expected her Canadian sons to do their duty, the boys in front of him were made of the stuff that would respond instantaneously as their older brothers had done a few years ago in the Boer war, which called forth such a spontaneous expression of loyalty.

The boys and girls present would look upon this demonstration to-day as a red-letter day in the history of their school life.

On their behalf he thanked His Excellency most kindly and cordially for the excellent address given them and the great interest shown in everything pertaining to them and to the welfare of the country.

Mr. P. M. Côté, Chairman of the Separate School Board, then seconded the motion in the following words :—

EXCELLENCE,

Mesdames, et messieurs,

C'est pour moi un grand honneur, en ma qualité de président de la commission scolaire catholique d'Ottawa, d'appuyer le vote de remerciements à Son Excellence pour avoir si gracieusement consenti à adresser la parole, en cette circonstance mémorable, aux enfants des écoles de la capitale.

Toujours ils se rappelleront, pour la mettre en pratique, la leçon de patriotisme et d'amour du sol natal qu'ils ont reçue en termes si éloquents des lèvres mêmes du très distingué représentant de Sa Majesté dans notre beau Canada; toujours ils honoreront, aimeront et respecteront le nom de l'immortel héros de la marine anglaise—Nelson.

La circonstance présente est unique et consolante, et jamais, dans l'histoire de cette colonie ou dans l'histoire de la mère-patrie a-t-on vu un tel spectacle se dérouler.

Excellence, vous avez devant vous, au pied de la statue de la grande et aimante souveraine de l'Angleterre, fusionnés en une masse vivante, des enfants des deux plus grandes nations du monde, jadis ennemies, mais, Dieu merci, maintenant étroitement unies, assemblés ici pour chanter ensemble les gloires d'un des héros les plus illustres de la Grande-Bretagne. Il y a à peine quelques semaines, l'amiral Caillard et ses braves marins de l'escadre française, provoquaient les applaudissements enthousiastes de toute l'Angleterre, en saluant avec admiration la colonne de Nelson, dans le square Trafalgar, au cœur même de Londres; et quelques jours plus tard, dans notre propre pays, dans la vieille ville de Québec, un amiral anglais, Son Altesse le prince Louis de Battenberg, soulevait l'admiration de tout le peuple canadien, en s'inclinant révérentieusement devant un monument élevé à la mémoire d'un héros de la France, tombé sur les Plaines d'Abraham. Aujourd'hui, Excellence, vous avez, pas qu'un amiral

français saluant la statue d'un conquérant anglais, voire même plus qu'un noble prince anglais s'inclinant devant le mausolée d'un grand soldat français: vous avez des milliers de descendants de l'Angleterre et de la France, groupés sous un même drapeau national et en présence du représentant d'un roi commun et aimé, offrant leur tribut d'hommage au glorieux Empire Britannique.

Nous espérons que cet acte de loyauté convaincra Votre Excellence de l'amour et de l'affection, sans bornes et sans partage, de tout le peuple canadien pour la couronne d'Angleterre.

The ceremony of placing the wreath then took place. Nine or ten boys and girls lifted it high above their heads and hung it in front of the statue; they then placed their hands on the wreath and kept them there until all the children had sung "The Maple Leaf for Ever."

Hundreds of flags were then waved, and cheers given for His Excellency and others.

Lord Grey then called for three cheers for Nelson, which were given with the greatest enthusiasm. The proceeding then terminated.

