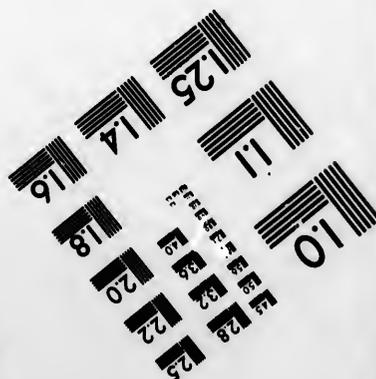
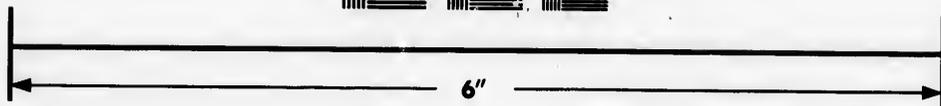
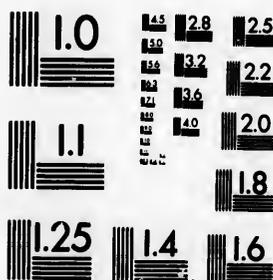


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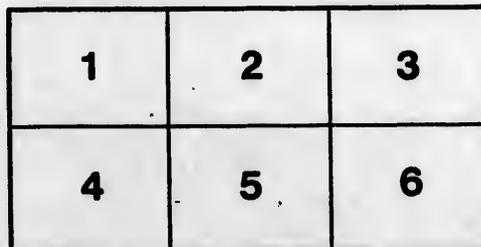
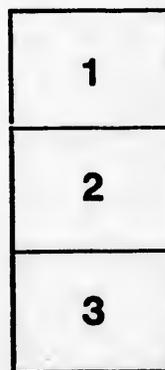
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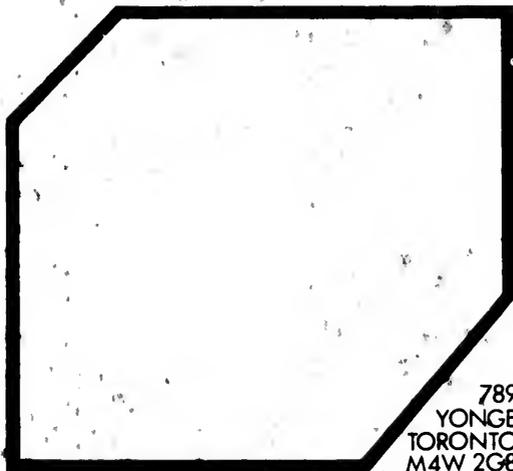
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VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
TO THE  
NATIONAL CLUB.

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**I**N compliance with the request of the Board of Directors of the National Club, His Excellency accepted an invitation to dine with the members of the Club on the 12th January, 1877. Owing to the limited capacity of the dining-room, it was necessary to restrict the number of subscriptions to sixty, and to issue no invitations other than to His Excellency the Governor-General and *suite*, to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and his Private Secretary, and to the Honourable the Premier of Ontario.

On arrival His Excellency was received by the Secretary, and conducted to the drawing-room of the Club, where the Vice-President and the members of the Board of Directors were assembled. At His Excellency's request these gentlemen and the members of the Club who were to meet him at dinner were presented to him. After these

presentations, His Excellency was conducted to the dining-room by the Vice-President. The seats prepared for the guests were placed upon a dais raised eight inches from the level of the dining-room floor, in order that the speakers might be in full view of each member, His Excellency occupying the seat at the Vice-President's right hand, having next to him the Hon. W. P. Howland, C.B., the Hon. Mr. Mowat, in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, being on the left hand of the Vice-President, and having next him His Worship Mayor Morrison.

On the wall in rear of the centre of the dais were the Arms of the Dominion, surmounted by the arms of His Excellency, and on the opposite wall were displayed the Arms of Ontario, surmounted by a beaver, each escutcheon being surrounded by tastefully draped trophies of flags.

The dining-tables were profusely decorated with flowers, and presented a very handsome appearance.

The Vice-President expressed regret at the absence of the President in England, who, he felt sure, would have been pleased had he been present to do the honours on such an auspicious occasion.

In proposing the first toast, the Vice-President said :— The toast he had the honour to propose was one which kindled in the heart of every Canadian the deepest affection and the truest loyalty—the health of her who reigns not only in the hearts of all her subjects, but in the hearts of millions of people beyond her own dominions.

He then proposed The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen.

Her Court was pure ; her life serene ;  
God gave her peace ; her land reposed ;  
A thousand claims to reverence closed  
In her as mother, wife and queen.

—*Tennyson.*

The National Anthem having been sung by the company, the Vice-President said:—In tendering to the representative of Her Majesty, the heartiest welcome to the National Club, we follow only the instinct of Canadians—the loyalty which is ingrained in the national character, and which has developed itself on every occasion since Canada was a British Colony. The patriotic designs which led to the adoption of the name of the Club have not been misunderstood by His Excellency, the honour done us by him in being present to-night being a proof of this. The principles which unite us together are those which should actuate every true statesman and patriot in the Dominion. There had been times in the history of this country when the want of “love of country” was painfully evident—for instance, when with the outbreak of the civil war across the borders came the abrogation of our reciprocal trade relations, and who can recall the too prevailing sentiments of that time without regret ; how the price of produce weighed heavily against nationality ; how some thought we could not exist without trade relations with our neighbours, and were ready to sell their birth-right for a mess of pottage ; the want then of an universal national sentiment was very apparent. Nor can it be wondered at if we consider the various elements comprising the population, without an attempt to blend

into harmony the heterogeneous mass ; for, be it remembered, our population is not composed merely of emigrants from Great Britain, who naturally feel an attachment to the old flag, nor of those from other European States seeking an asylum from the tyranny of despotic Governments ; but we have French, German, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Swiss, Poles, Laplanders,—some from almost every State in Europe, who have left their native land and settled in the West, to better their fortunes, attracted hither more by the price of land than by the form of government. Many of them, after a brief sojourn with us—for a trifling inducement—move on to the Western States. Besides this, there is the sectionalism existing in the Provinces themselves. In such a condition who could think, without trembling, of the proposition of some of England's statesmen, that the time was ripe for political autonomy, as without a thorough infusion of "love of country," such a misfortune might be the first step to annexation. More than this, can any thoughtful person say it is impossible for circumstances to arise in the future in which it might appear a mutual advantage that our beloved Mother should ask us to set up for ourselves. It cannot be regarded then as otherwise than patriotic to adopt the name of this Club with a desire simply to inspire the Canadian heart with a love of country, to raise a standard around which—in case of necessity—every Canadian would rally, ready to shed his blood in defence of that which nerves and fires the soul of the true soldier—his country. But in seeking to prepare Canada for any emergency, we be-

lieve her first interests lie in the closest possible relations with the Mother country ; and I believe I speak the sentiments of every member of this Club, in stating that no greater calamity could befall us at the present time than separation from Great Britain and our beloved Queen, and that no more truly loyal community—to British connection—exists in this Dominion than the National Club. His Excellency has shown a thorough interest in our national welfare, and that he might have a perfect knowledge of our wants and condition, has minutely examined all the Educational, Commercial, and Industrial interests in each of the Provinces, even braving the risks and fatigue of crossing the continent, with his noble Countess, to visit our disaffected fellow-subjects on the Pacific coast ; thus contributing very materially towards breaking down Provincialism, and uniting us as one people ; and, by sounding the praises of this great Dominion, has done more towards making this country popular as a field for emigrants, than all the agencies employed by the Government, and much to create and foster that spirit in the minds of Canadians for which this Club was formed. The welcome of the Club is extended to Lord Dufferin, not only as the Queen's representative but as indicating the respect and honour that he has won, both politically and socially, since his advent in Canada. May he live long to administer the laws with that discretion and wisdom which has secured to him so high a place in the affections of the inhabitants of this country, and when he forsakes this for a higher appointment, may he and his Countess ever remember that in Canada they

leave behind them sincere friends and hearty well-wishers. He then proposed the health of His Excellency the Governor-General.

And then I stole all courtesy from heaven,  
 And dressed myself in such humility  
 That I did pluck allegiance from men's hearts,  
 Loud shouts and salutations from their mouths.

—*K. Henry IV.*

His Excellency the Governor-General, in reply, said :—  
 GENTLEMEN,

I assure you it is with feelings of the deepest gratitude that I rise to acknowledge the kind and cordial manner in which you have been good enough to drink my health. Such tokens as those which you have just exhibited of your confidence and kind feelings are a most welcome encouragement to any one in my situation, for it gives me the assurance that I have not failed in that which is one of the dearest and most anxious desires of my heart, namely, to secure the good will and attachment of those I have been commissioned by my Sovereign to serve. (Cheers.) Precluded as the representative of the Crown necessarily is, by the very essence of his duty, from the slightest appearance of a desire or design to place himself in sympathy with any phase of political enthusiasm, or with the special predilections of any section of the community, however numerous or well-inspired ; reduced as his functions are to those rather of a negative than of a positive character, and unsensational as is the routine of his ordinary duties, there necessarily remain but very few

points at which he can come into anything like intimate or harmonious contact with those to the promotion of whose interests, happiness and welfare, the energies of his life are nevertheless directed. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances his pleasure and his pride is all the greater when he finds that his obscure and unostentatious efforts to do his duty and to benefit the country with which he is connected have attracted the notice or commendation of those whose esteem it is his ambition to win and preserve. His principal achievements probably consist rather in preventing mischief than in accomplishing any substantial good ; and even with regard to his public speeches, which more than anything else communicate some little substance to his shadowy individuality, as I observed the other day to the City Council, the best parts of them, to adopt the privilege of my country, are those which have been left out. (Great laughter.) In fact, the head of the State in a constitutional *régime* is the depository of what, though undoubtedly a very great, is altogether a latent power—a power which, under the auspices of wise parliamentary statesmanship, is never suffered to become active, and his ordinary duties are very similar to those of the humble functionary we see superintending the working of some complicated mass of steam-driven machinery. (Laughter.) This personage merely walks about with a little tin vessel of oil in his hand (renewed laughter), and he pours in a drop here and a drop there, as occasion or the creaking of a joint may require, while his utmost vigilance is directed to no higher aim than the preservation of his wheels and cogs from the intrusion of dust

grits—(roars of laughter again and again renewed)—or other foreign bodies. There, gentlemen, what was I saying? See how easily an unguarded tongue can slip into an ambiguous expression—(uproarious laughter)—an expression which I need not assure you on this occasion is entirely innocent of all political significance. (Laughter.) But I must say that far from having had cause to complain of my humble efforts, such as they were, not having been duly appreciated, I am only too sensible that your kindness and the generous instincts of the people of Canada, to take the will for the deed, has created for me an amount of good-will and approval far beyond my deserts, of which such entertainments as the present and the pleasant things said at them is the agreeable exhibition. (Cheers.) Anybody would, indeed, be dead to every sentiment of gratitude in whose heart such tokens of confidence did not arouse a still more earnest desire to do his duty, and to strain every nerve in the service of those who are so ready to condone his shortcomings and reward his exertions. (Loud applause.) And, gentlemen, here I must be permitted to say that I consider it as no small part of my good fortune that my connection with Canada should have occurred at a moment when probably she is in the act of making one of the greatest strides towards the establishment of her prestige, stability, and importance which has hitherto been recorded in her history. (Cheers.) Even a casual observer cannot have failed to mark the decisive manner in which she is gradually asserting her position as one of the most important communities in the civilized world. (Great

applause.) This circumstance has had a very visible effect both upon the public opinion of England and of the United States. In spite of that preoccupation with their own affairs natural to all communities, Canada on several occasions has not merely attracted the sympathies but has compelled the admiration and attention of the thinking men of both countries. Her school systems, her federal arrangements, her municipal institutions, her maritime regulations, have repeatedly been cited in recent years by English statesmen of authority and distinction as worthy of imitation. (Cheers.) As for the United States, although they may be too proud to own it, there is not a citizen of the neighbouring Republic who does not envy the smooth and harmonious working of our well-balanced and happily-adjusted institutions. (Applause.) Of one thing I am quite sure, that there is not an American politician between the Atlantic and the Pacific who would not at the present moment be content to give half his fortune, and perhaps a great deal more, to possess that most serviceable and useful thing, a Governor-General. (Great laughter.) Indeed, the acquisition by the United States of so valuable a personage has of late come to appear of such prime necessity—would prove such an obvious mode of solving their personal difficulties, and of remedying the defects of their Governmental machine—that I have been extremely nervous—(laughter)—about passing so near the border as I had to do on my way hither. There is no knowing what might happen in the case of people under such a stress of temptation. (Renewed laughter.) Raids have been prompted sometimes by

love as well as hate. In fact, the tame ceremonies of modern marriage are but the emasculated reproduction of the far more spirited principle of capture—(laughter)—by which brides in less sophisticated ages were obtained. Who knows to what lengths Mr. Tilden and Mr. Hayes and the millions of their respective adherents now drawn up in hostile array against each other might not be driven in the agony of their present suspense. (Laughter.) A British Governor-General! What a cutting of the Gordian knot. (Great laughter.) And so near, too—just across the water. A gunboat and a corporal's guard and the thing is done. (Continued laughter.) And then think what they get in him. A person disassociated from all sectional interests, prejudices, and passions (hear, hear), who can never become stronger than the people's Parliament or divide the national vote. (Applause.) A representative of all that is august, stable, and sedate in the government, the history, and the traditions of the country; incapable of partizanship, and lifted far above the atmosphere of faction; without adherents to reward or opponents to oust from office; docile to the suggestions of his Ministers, and yet securing to the people the certainty of being able to get rid of an Administration or Parliament the moment either had forfeited their confidence. (Applause.) Really, gentlemen, I think I had better remove nearer to the North Pole—(great laughter)—for I am sure you will believe me when I say that, after having been made to feel for so many years how good and kind are the people of Canada—(cheering)—having had an opportunity of appreciating how high an honour it is to

be connected with a Dominion so full of hope, with such a glorious prospect before her—(great cheering)—I shall never be induced, even under the stress of violence and a threat of being “bulldozed” (loud laughter)—to sit for one moment longer than I can help in the Presidential chair of the United States. (Laughter and cheers.) Should I go you may expect me back by the underground railway. (Renewed laughter.) Nay, more, so deeply attached am I to our Canada that the Pashalik of Bulgaria shall not tempt me away—(laughter)—even though a full domestic establishment, such as are customary in that country, should be provided for me out of the taxes of the people (laughter)—and Lady Dufferin gave her consent—which is doubtful. (Great laughter.) In conclusion, His Excellency asked leave to propose the health of the National Club, coupled with that of the Vice-President. In doing so he said he was well aware that the National Club sought to identify itself with all that was most patriotic in the country; that he himself was in perfect sympathy with their endeavours to cultivate a just pride in the glorious Dominion of which they were citizens, and that his presence there to-night testified his profound conviction that those sentiments of patriotism were not only compatible with the most genuine loyalty to the Crown, but were the best pledges which could be given of the devotion of those he saw around him to the honour, welfare, and interests of the British Empire at large. (Great applause.)

In responding to the toast proposed by His Excellency, the Vice-President said he returned thanks on behalf of

the Club, and felt sure every member would appreciate the honour done them ; and he felt specially honoured at the kind mention of himself. The Club owed much to His Excellency, for he had—as it were—explored the Dominion and taught Canadians how much they had to be proud of, proud of the land that gave them birth, proud of the land which their labour and the labour of their fathers had changed from a wilderness to a land of prosperity and plenty. Beyond this, no true Canadian has a desire to go, nor will they seek that independence which may be the future of Canada until Britain herself considers the time has come for her to take her place amongst Nations. Till then we are content with the blessings accorded to us under the freest and most enlightened form of government that exists in the world.

The Vice-President said His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor had accepted the invitation of the Club and was expected here to-night, but had excused himself at the last moment on account of some unexpected obstacle. He had reached his high position with an enviable record, both in public and private life, furnishing a proof of Her Majesty's readiness to recognise ability and faithful services to the State among Canadians. Such a record should be an incentive to every Canadian to persevere in the path of duty, as, should we not prove faithful in that which is least, we cannot attain to that which is greater. Since he assumed the government of this Province, he had proved himself in every way worthy of the high trust committed to him by His Excellency the Governor-General, and we trust he will be blessed with health to enjoy

the distinguished honour he has so fairly won as the Lieutenant-Governor of the most important Province in the Dominion.

He then proposed the health of His Honour,

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

For you must know, we have with special soul  
Elected him our absence to supply,  
Lent him our terror, dressed him in our love.

—*Measure for Measure.*

In proposing the last toast, the Vice-President said he was sure it was one which would touch a chord in every breast, and that full justice might be done, he should not speak to it himself, but would afford an opportunity to one who could so eloquently express how dear the subject was to every Canadian heart. He then proposed

CANADA.

It is the land that freemen till,  
That sober-suited Freedom chose,  
The land, where girt with friends or foes,  
A man may speak the thing he will.

—*Tennyson.*

A poor virgin, Sir, an ill-favoured thing, Sir,  
But mine own.

—*As You Like It.*

The Honourable Mr. Mowat, being called on to respond, in the course of his observations mentioned the embarrassment of being called to reply to such a toast, without the slightest previous intimation of any speech

being expected from him, and to reply in the presence of such a master of the art of public speaking as His Excellency was, to whom he referred also as amongst the most esteemed and most respected of Canada's Governors. He (Mr. Mowat) rejoiced to hear the loyal and patriotic remarks of the Vice-President, and to learn from him that, while the leading object of the Club was the very important one of cultivating amongst Canadians a love of their country, the Club did not desire to hasten the period of the political separation of their country from the old land ; but, on the contrary, regarded the prospect of such a separation at a future day with regret. The Club had been supposed to favour independence for Canada, and if independence was talked of anywhere in the Dominion, it was supposed to be here ; but the evident enthusiasm with which every loyal allusion to-night had been received, would be evidence to his Excellency, as it was to all, that their thoughts in that direction, whatever they were, did not prevent warm loyalty from being the sentiment of the whole Club. It was well to cultivate love for Canada, but it was not to be assumed that such love did not exist generally now ; Canadians loved their country just as much as Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen loved their native land, and why should they not ? The Dominion was a wide one, extending from sea to sea. It possessed a climate adapted for the development of a hardy race. It possessed territory and resources sufficient to support a population large enough, by-and-by, to sustain itself against all comers. Canada had a special call on the attachment of her sons, as being peculiarly the

country of the poor man, who here can secure for himself comforts and even wealth which in Europe he has little or no prospect of ever arriving at. Mr. Mowat spoke of the moral advantages as well as material advantages which we derive from our present connection with Great Britain, and concluded by saying that, if separation some day was in the natural progress of events inevitable, his hope was, and, from what he had seen and heard to-night he felt sure that the hope of the National Club was, that the separation should not take place in our time.

His Excellency then leaving the table, the proceedings terminated.







