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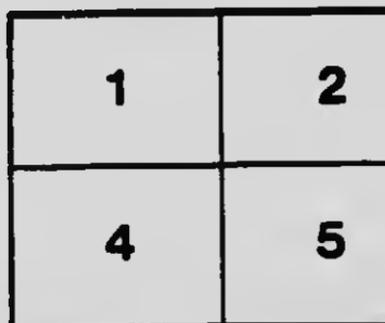
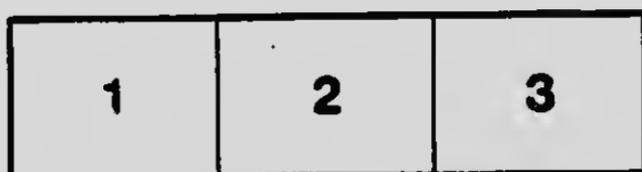
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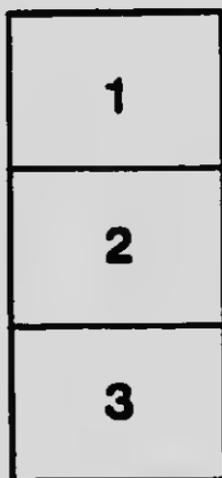
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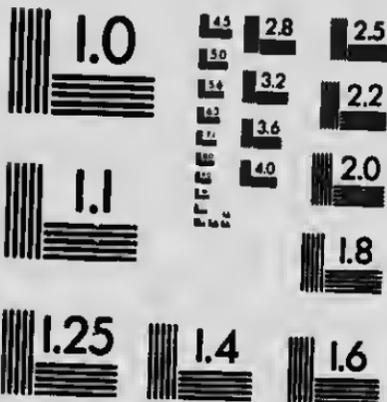
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QUEBEC TRICENTENARY

AN APPEAL

BY

WILFRED CAMPBELL, LL.D.

Read at the Royal Society Banquet, Ottawa, May 28, 1908

QUEBEC.

AN APPEAL, BY WILFRID CAMPBELL, LL.D.

Read at the Royal Society Banquet, Ottawa, 28th May, 1908.

'O fortress City, bathed by streams
Majestic as thy memories great.'

These significant lines addressed by the Duke of Argyll to our famous Canadian citadel, are a fitting introduction to this appeal to the Canadian and other peoples of the Empire in behalf of a Quebec Memorial.

Containing, as they do, the fundamental idea of Quebec's greatness and national and Imperial importance; they answer positively the question: Why should the Canadian people and all citizens throughout the Empire participate in the dedication of the immortal Heights to the memory of those great souls, French and British, who, as discoverers, missionaries, statesmen, pioneers and soldiers, were, in the truest sense, founders of Canada?

When His Excellency, Lord Grey, brought forward his splendid project for the preservation of our famous battlefields, he inaugurated a movement which will endear his memory to all our people. And when Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and all children of the Empire throughout the world understand the true significance of the work undertaken by the Battlefields Association, they will not only heartily endorse the scheme outlined, but they will, men and women, old and young alike, desire to give their large or small contribution to the fund which is being raised for this patriotic object.

It is for the purpose of laying before our people in Canada and those in the Motherland, the sister colonies and those of our blood to the south the importance of this undertaking, that this appeal is made.

In July next it is expected that a cheque will be presented on behalf of the Canadian people and other patriotic citizens throughout the Empire to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales who will in turn present it to the Battlefields Commission to be spent by them in the noble work of devoting this famous theatre of early Canadian

history to the sacred memory of those eventful scenes which were enacted thereon, and to those heroic spirits who are associated with its ancient walls. And it is to be hoped that every citizen of Canada, every school boy and school girl will offer some small mite to swell that national fund and will be proud to have a part in this heart offering of present-day Canada to her heroic past.

We in Canada are a young and busy people over-engrossed in the material struggle of the hour and the moment. But if we stop to think and examine into our past, we will discover that the ancient city of Quebec is the foundation pivot on which all our history turns; that she is the starting point from which have gone out nearly all, if not all our great dreams of conquest ideal and material; and that it is hick to her that all our young communities, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, must inevitably, in gratitude and *sensu* of origin, return.

From the remote days of Champlain, La Salle and Brébœuf to the modern present all roads lead back to her, the citadel of our national dreams. What province, what community, what portion of our people is not linked to Quebec by some bond, some tie of the near or remote past? Is she not from the very beginning sacredly associated with the greatest events in our national and imperial history? Do not all those subtle, silken threads which bind the Dominion together, find their common source in the grim old rock which fronts on the famed river of Cartier and Champlain; of Wolfe, Dorchester, Murray and Montcalm?

Is not this sufficient reason why we should venerate this old city bastioned above her mighty tides sweeping forever seaward, as man's longings ever return to the past? Then she is not only the city of her battlefields: but also the place of our national origins, or beginnings: of our country's natal day of preparation for all which was destined to follow.

Here Cartier came alone, and undaunted, was the first to dare our fierce season of ice and snow. Here Roberval followed and the hardy Norman and Breton fishermen. Here, in the year of our Lord sixteen hundred and eight, Champlain, the great soldier, sailor, statesman, and pioneer, whom Parkman calls: 'The Æneas of a destined people,' founded Canada in a piety and courage worthy of our eternal emulation and admiration.

Here Christianity first rendered holy our national soil, and martyrdom sealed the truth with the blood of saints. Here knowledge first spread its benign influence in those gray walls:

'Where learning from Laval looks down.'

From here the first heroic discoverers went forth to open up those unknown regions of the vast west when the first foot of white man in

modern times trod those lonesome haunted wilds, and the first European eye looked in wonder and awe on those sublime streams and mighty inland waters.

Here nobility and heroism, wisdom and piety held the pioneer outpost, in Canada, of European civilization, and here Montcalm, the last great Frenchman of the old Regime, struggled in vain, while France's rule went down amid the blatant folly of a Vaudreuil and the material corruption of the Intendant Bouchard.

Here in the glorious victory of Wolfe, British rule in Canada began; here the first attempt at British constitutional government in Canada had its birth; here the Fathers of Confederation met, here our Dominion was proclaimed, and from here embarked the first Canadian contingent to fight outside of Canada in the battles of the Empire.

All these events which constitute, as it were, the very vertebrae of our national history, render this old place, associated with great names from Champlain to Laurier, the sacred or mother city of our young northern land.

We may have other greater, more densely populated, more wealthy and progressive cities. We may produce metropolises of commerce and industry, marks of modern effort and achievement; but we have only one Quebec, the Gibraltar of the west, the gateway of the St. Lawrence, sacred to the memory of the early explorer and adventurer, those daring spirits who:

'Counted no dangers; dreamed all seas their road
'To possible futures; struck no craven sail
'For sloth or indolent cowardice; steered their keels
'O'er crests of heaving ocean, leagues of brine,
'While Hope firm kept the tiller, Faith in dreams
'Saw coasts of gleaming continents looming large
'Beyond the ultimate of the sea's far rim.'
'Souls too great for sloth and impotent ease.'

without whom our place as a people on this western continent would scarce have been possible.

It is for all this, and more, that Quebec stands: and is for this reason alone that the coming tercentenary of the founding of Canada by Champlain and the institution of the Battlefield Memorial should be of the deepest significance to every Canadian.

Throughout the Empire and all over the world there is spreading a keen interest in this great and important gathering. Britain, France, the United States, and the sister colonies, all will take part in and be associated with the approaching celebration.

But especially here in Canada should this event be a love feast, as it were, between the two great sister races, whose fate lies, not only

side by side, but together, in the common destiny of the growing nation. Let us all realize that in this celebration we are one in our common memories, our common admiration, our common gratitude to those great souls, French or British, but alike Canadian, whose deeds and lives, whose heroic effort made this country possible.

It is in this spirit of common patriotism that a scheme has been adopted by which to use the fund to be raised in a wise and patriotic manner so as not only to secure to the Canadian people forever the grounds on the Heights sacred to our common heritage; but also to erect and maintain a national museum as an instructive and otherwise worthy memorial of our heroic past.

This museum, it is intended, will be dedicated to the object of commemorating the development of our country and people from the earliest days. In it each province will have its place and hold its part, and in its architecture, decoration and contents, Canadian history and art will vie with each other in repeating, in painting, sculpture, parchment and relief the story of Canada, and its navel, the great gray bastioned crag; that fabled Norman and Breton gateway to the present and future dreams and achievements of this New France and this newer Britain of the Western World.

It is true that we have in Canada other places redolent with sacred memories of our storied past, places especially dear to the children of our different provinces and communities of peoples. Queenston Heights in Upper Canada is one of these, a spot next to Quebec dearest to all Canadians. But none of these are quite in the same sense what Quebec has meant, means now, and will mean ever more (as time goes on) to the whole Dominion. All of these places have their niche in the walls of the temple of our national heart's memory. But chief of all looms the grand old gateway to the St. Lawrence.

All races and creeds which go to make up our people have some reason to remember the old citadel. French, Scottish, English, Irish, U. E. Loyalist, all have participated in some way in the destiny of the rock fort of Stadacona. To this place in the future will come travellers from either hemisphere, and seeing our memorial erected to our past they will read in it the history and present ideal of a people worthy to be called great, by reason of their veneration for their mighty dead; and every Canadian from Cape Breton to Vancouver will be rendered illustrious in the rich evidences of heroism and fortitude which our national patriotism will collect within the temple which it is proposed to ultimately rear on the Heights of Abraham.

Then a word as to the battlefields themselves. They represent victory and honour for the French, the British, the U. E. Loyalist and the American.

No one spot in all the world is so linked to associations in which so many peoples may feel pride.

But above all, there is a call to every French and British heart from this sacred ground. The causes of strife are long since dead and passed away. But the great memories alone remain. The common memory of a common heroism which should bind, and does and will bind, our two peoples more and more as Canadians. Here now and forever stands the field and the immortal part of all that is most heroic in the two great Canadian races.

This appeal is to all our people. It is to those who have influence and the means to speed the good-will and the patriotic ideal. It is to the clergy of all denominations, the teachers in the schools, the heads of all associations—it is to that great regiment of toilers, the tillers of the field, the men of the mart and mine, so that all our people may have their part in this great patriotic revival.



