

May Christ make us
Follow fast,
Never straying.
Grace-gladness we ask not, expect not,
But rather
Dry-hearted
And dogged
After-trailing,
The dragging of dull flesh,
Nearly-failing,
We look for;
Bloody death we may pass through,
To the high summit's up-scaling.

Thus hope we
That on doomsday
We shall
Rise from the sea-floods,
Spring from our dust-tombs,
Expectant:
Up-glimpsing His arrival,
Gaze at Chariot's sun-glancing,
And greet
The cloud-striding,
Down-treading,
Bright-gleaming
Of Christ's glorious
Foot-haloes.

—A. P. C.

CANADA AND THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

The British Commonwealth of Nations is an organization of a unique nature and of comparatively recent origin. During the course of World War I, four parts of the British Empire, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, made such outstanding contributions to the war effort that it was generally felt that they had outgrown their childhood status as mere parts of the British Empire. Official recognition of this was given by the Imperial Conference of 1917, which declared that Canada and the other Dominions were "autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth". A further step was taken by the Imperial Conference of

1926 which affirmed Great Britain and the Dominion to be equal partners in the British Commonwealth. The title and the relationship existing between the members were confirmed by the Statute of Westminster in 1931. In the meantime Eire had gained Dominion Status and was now included in the Commonwealth.

As each of the members possesses various dependencies, and what belongs to the part may be logically considered to belong to the whole, the term British Commonwealth could be broadened to include all the colonies and territories of the members. It is probably less confusing to use the term as the name of the six independent nations united under the British Crown. Great Britain exercises no compulsion of any kind upon the other nations, and no taxes or tribute are ever paid to her. Canada's contribution to the two world wars was made entirely on her own initiative. So free are the members of the Commonwealth to pursue their own policies that Eire remained neutral all through the late war, and England exercised no pressure to induce her to abandon her neutrality. By virtue of her history, size, and geographical position, Canada occupies first place among the five Dominions.

Two limitations upon the authority of Canada have remained although these powers were not requested by Great Britain but were retained by her at the request of Canada. The first of these limitations is that the Canadian constitution in so far as it is contained in the British North American Act can be amended only by the British Parliament. The second is that certain decisions of the Dominion courts can be appealed to the Privy Council in London. The basic reason for these limitations lies in the fact that Canada is a country of two races. It was felt that in this way the rights of the minority would be more fully guaranteed. All the other Dominions have the right to amend their own constitutions, but appeals from most of them are still referred to the Privy Council. Many Canadians feel at the present time that appeals to the Privy Council should be abolished, and that we should be enabled to amend our own constitutions. Canada has power to take these steps, and they would meet with no opposition from Great Britain. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council agrees with our Supreme Court that we have the right to change the situation. There would seem to be no valid reason any longer why the legislators at Westminster and their Lordships of the Privy Council should continue to be consulted about matters which are no concern of theirs. To those who argue that we would be severing one of our valuable links with Great Britain it might be pointed out that legal matters do not constitute a substitute for ties of

sentiment, and that the intangible bonds that unite us to Great Britain would be the stronger for not being strained by these vestiges of subordinate status.

A few imperialists of the old school urge a strengthening of the British connection for nineteenth-century reasons. A small minority go to the other extreme and loudly declare that we have outgrown the British Commonwealth and that Canada should free herself from it. Without going to either of these extremes, let us examine what her membership in the British Commonwealth means to Canada.

The fact that Canada appears on the scene of world politics as a member of this powerful group gives her a position of greater importance than she could attain if she stood alone. She gains prestige from the connection and hence gains influence. Canada has more influence abroad than Canadians sometimes realize. With wise leadership she can be a considerable force for good on the international stage. Guided by an active sense of responsibility, the Commonwealth with its system of free association, can take determined action to help preserve the peace of the world.

Although it may seem to be a paradox, nevertheless it is true that the British connection helps us to maintain our own individuality. We have grown up as a small nation very close to a much larger one. There has always been a strong north-south pull on Canada. Through American films, magazines, and radio, we are constantly influenced by American culture. All our best highways lead south. If there existed no other influence to counteract this pull southward, we should long ago have been drawn decisively into the orbit of the United States. The east-west pull of the British Commonwealth helps to prevent this. Because of our British connection we are aided in preserving our distinctly Canadian character. We have developed in Canada certain institutions, traditions, and characteristics which give us our national character. Without the British connection we should tend more and more to American customs, and we should be completely assimilated by the American way of life. Perhaps we are less public-spirited than Americans because we were so long a colony, but if we had not been a colony of Great Britain we would be today a part of the American republic.

The Commonwealth represents a successful union of free peoples in a world which has found that the barriers of an extreme nationalism lead only to war. The British Commonwealth is a step toward that world outlook which will bring lasting peace.

In contrast to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with its highly centralized authority, it possesses no central organization. Its members are truly free and respect the rights of all people. It is, in Mr. Eden's words, "the one really successful experiment in international cooperation." We should be proud of Canada's membership in the British Commonwealth, and we should encourage the exchange of ideas and the fullest cooperation between its members. For only through constant contact will we preserve the sense of family that distinguishes this association of nations.

—EVELYN HESSIAN '49

TO NIGHT

O night, your darkness is the light of souls,
Your calm serene a balm for troubled hearts.
Through many hours I've waited here for you,
But now the last red ray has fled the sky,
And not so long ago the dusky veil
Of evening fell across the darkening blue.

I saw the moon, the mistress of the sky,
Break through your shadowy mantle and enfold
The passive earth in robes of silver mist.
And by her side her children fair, the stars,
Peeked through a filmy cloud, and with a gay
Flirtatious smile the moonstones kissed.

And when you're gone, and daylight's brilliance breaks
Again upon the harshness of the world,
I watch the silver grandeur that is you
Escape me, and, alone, I face a morn
Too glaring bright, too full of cares and tears,
Too shallow, too unfriendly, too untrue.

—ALICE McCLOSKEY '49

AN APOLOGY FOR TRUE LITERATURE

Hey! wait a minute, you who seek the knowledge of the ancients.
Haste by no means speeds the action and a name is only on the
surface. Pause a few moments while I, in a few short paragraphs,