

ODE FOR DOMINION DAY

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I

When Cartier first saw Hochelaga's height
And on Mount Royal reared the fleur-de-lys,
When dawn swept down the age-long savage night,
Was Canada conceived in majesty.

God, keep within us yet that dauntless flame
Of old courageous days,

When hearts were stout and hands were truly strong;
Of those who from the valorous centuries came

Still let us stride the ways,

And tribulation never shall be long!

O Canada, unveil for us the splendid past,
That thy first glorious hours may sanctify these last.

II

That we might wear this present nationhood,
Daulac drew sword, and sought Death to the end;
For us Brock gave an English hero's blood,
And dark Tecumseh did our fields defend.

Far on the veldt, and on the crimsoned Somme
New generations proved

The Empire free as their Canadian home.

Now over many a field the stars are calm

Where heroes sleep beloved,

And there Remembrance shall for ever come.

These are our heritage, and these our rightful pride;
God grant that we may live as nobly as they died.

III

The hero's deed, the lonely poet's theme

Enshrine a nation's greatness—these we have,

A strange magnificence of deed and dream

That mocks the years and burns above the grave;

England and France flow kindred in one vein,

The dreaming Celt and Scot,

The Norseman all his sea-born valor brings,
The magic melancholy of the Ukraine,—
All these are subtly wrought
In one vast anthem our Dominion sings:
From ancient kingdoms' hopes a People shall arise
To write their steadfast faiths across the Western skies.

IV

We are a people marching down the ages,
O'er golden seas, beyond the mountains' crest;
Our legacy of warriors, bards and sages
Shall guide us still on truth's and beauty's quest.
God, let our dreams be deep, our deeds be fair,
And let our spirits be
Imbued with all that was, that future time
Shall see a new Dominion which will dare,
For right and liberty,
Attain new peaks and victories more sublime.
My country, Canada, land of auspicious birth,
Arise, and let thy youth inspire the lands of Earth!