

Arts, is it? What kind of arts? I won't stop to explain but I will say the word "Arts" as here used is a much worn relic of the past. How much better always to speak of the "course of study."

Well, about "Modern Languages." I don't like that expression either. It does not express what we mean. We don't want Micmac, or Gaelic, or Telugu, or Chinese taught in Acadia. The term may be ornamental but it is delusive. It is not honest. The term usually brings first to our mind French and German. Now I challenge German. I stop it at the gate. I say, enter not here. Four years are two brief, other subjects are too urgent to admit of you. Other things promise more usefulness. I say, remain without. Many will come out probably to go with you but inside we cannot entertain you.

But the French language we admit. We speak in the hearing of the Senate, as it were, and we say by all means, and as soon as you can, plainly declare the very great propriety of making it a condition precedent that every applicant for a B. A. degree shall be able to handle the French tongue as thoroughly as the English. Stop not short of that.

Reasons why. We are a double-tongued people. The entire population of the Dominion (1881) was 4,324,810. Of this number 1,298,929 are French speaking. Almost all others speak the English language. In Nova Scotia we have 41,219 French; in New Brunswick 56,635, and in P. E. Island, 10,751. How shall our ministers preach and teach the gospel to all their fellow-countrymen without a knowledge of French. Shall we spend so much for the land of the Telugus and leave so large a proportion of our own people actually unapproached, except by the most feeble missionary effort. How grand it would be if all Acadia's graduates now preaching the gospel could discourse in French as well as in English. How would our Normandy rejoice to have Cohoon and Warren and other of Acadia's sons take a few weeks in his wide field and sound out the everlasting gospel in

the sweet accents of the French tongue. Will you tell me how our politicians and statesmen can understand and thoroughly discuss political questions anywhere and everywhere in this Dominion without the use of French? It is impossible. Tell me how the lawyer in this country can rise to the highest place in his profession without French. He cannot do it. A perfect understanding of the French is absolutely necessary to a perfect understanding of the Quebec laws, and these laws are the subject of review at Ottawa at every session of our supreme appeal court.

Another reason. More than half the period of our provincial history is a history of French occupation. It is simply impossible correctly to understand and interpret that history without the knowledge of the language of the people who made it. Being English myself I assume our race is the predominant one in this country and that eventually French must go and all must yield to the impetuous and irresistible tide of Anglo-Saxon progress and advancement. But that time is far ahead and few things will so hasten it as the knowledge of the French language by the English speaking people of this country. The assimilation of our laws and institutions will be greatly accelerated by the power to use freely and correctly the language in which our French people speak.

Another reason. It is a beautiful language. Its study means the cultivation of the grace of speech. It opens the portals, not only to our own early history and to a ready acquaintance with our French fellow-citizens, but also to the rich stores of French literature, and the thorough knowledge of French in Acadia will do much to bring our French youth to her halls.

The acquisition of this language so as to be able to think and speak in it as readily as in our mother tongue, means discipline, it means the quickening of the ear, the cultivation of the vocal organs, the instant translation from our own tongue into it, the pleasure and even fascination of being able to express