

French-speaking people of Quebec it is claimed that their language is necessary, or is the natural, the best means of expressing and developing the aspirations and spirit characteristics of their race. If so, in that for them there are compensations. French is an unknown tongue to the mass of the people surrounding Quebec. Therefore, to them the spirit and viewpoint of the Quebec residents are not freely communicated. This fact has been exploited by designing persons and misunderstandings and antagonisms have arisen. If those antagonisms were between nations foreign to each other, small a occasion might be a *casus belli*. Is there not some underlying principle or law of conduct that may be appealed to to adjust fairly the difference between people and province and states which desire peace?

It should be found in the law of nature of which some definite and authoritative expression should not be wanting. I do not mean the law of nature in the sense in which it was understood by mediæval jurists, for they did not consider it simply a principle eternal, immutable and in agreement with the deepest needs of human nature, but a true positive law that any court was bound to recognise and enforce where it was applicable. As all people are presumed to know the state law which is to govern their conduct and according to which they are to be judged, it should be so positive, definitely expressed and easy of understanding that "the wayfaring man, though simple, shall not err therein." Certainly the unwritten law of nature is not that, and, therefore, is not of practical value insolving concrete cases where human life and liberty and property are involved.

Georgiadel Vecchiosays, in his book published a few years ago on "The Formal Basis of Law:"

"The only constant factor to be found in the historical life of law is that it is not an entity but a relation. Beyond the infinite diversity of positive law is a permanent essence based on the fundamental unity of human nature toward the realization of which all particular laws are and have been groping . . . The idea of natural law is in fact connected with that of a human world-wide law, which can be described in terms of historical evolution."