

to the Montreal district. Quebec and Three Rivers took no part in these disturbances. Here again the clergy showed their loyalty: Bishop Lartigue of Montreal commanded his flock to abstain from all unlawful proceedings.

In 1849 a certain number of Montreal merchants, both English and French—some of them very prominent—and well-known politicians raised the annexation cry.¹ Trade in Canada was then at a very low ebb, a crisis having been brought on by the abolition of the Corn Laws. It was argued by these people that if Canada joined her destinies with those of the United States, she would share their prosperity. Again priests stepped in to point out to their flocks the danger to which their faith and language would be exposed if Lower Canada threw itself into the gigantic agglomeration of people to the south. They, moreover, put them on their guard against new-fangled utopias imported from France, after the Revolution of 1848, by some radical French Canadians.

About this time (1849) the minds of leading French Canadians were deeply concerned by the new disposition among their countrymen to leave Canada in order to settle in the New England States. At first no one was impressed by this danger, but with time the emigration increased in an alarming manner, especially from 1865, after the War of Secession, to 1890.

Gradually, important French settlements were established in many manufacturing centres of the New England and Eastern States. In Fall River, Lowell, Willimantic, Manchester, etc., there are thousands of families with complete organizations of their own, French churches and schools. Some of these newcomers have obtained municipal honours, and Rhode Island repeatedly elected as governor, Aram Pothier. Their ambition is, after having become naturalized American citizens, to constitute autonomies exclusively French to keep up their language and customs. So far this ideal has been attained where they have grouped themselves in large numbers, but in smaller communities they have been lost in the general mass. Is it not strange to see

¹ Among them were J. J. C. (afterwards Sir John) Abbott, L. H. Holton and A. A. Dorion.