

Champagne or Poitou, but, at the same time, participates of all. There is no more authentic French than this savory language, piously preserved by the sons of the first Colonists. No doubt some modern expressions translated from the English, and some peculiarities of pronunciation disparage it a little for us, but the general effect is charming and full of attraction, above all, to a Frenchman. In one sense, the language of Canada, with what it preserves of archaism, and although a little rustic, is perhaps more truly French than even that of the boulevards, being handed down without noticeable alteration from ancestors, many, of whom, came from our country districts. But many Englishmen who allow themselves to be deceived by appearances, and fail to perceive the charm so appealing to us, joke placidly about it. On the boat one of them said to me in a barbarous French he believed to be very elegant, "You will see; they speak French very badly in Canada. When I am in Quebec, they take me for a Parisian." This agreeable man, although no fool, had no idea how comical his naive remark was. I felt the full ridicule of it when, hardly disembarked at Quebec and speaking to the wharfingers, coachmen and customs officers, I could at once easily believe myself in the heart of France, at Poitiers, Rouen, Tours or Besançon".

Mr. J. J. Jusserand, the French ambassador at Washington, wrote not long ago, "The language of the Canadians and the Frenchmen is the same, both being French... No, there is no possible doubt, and I have had too numerous occasions of hearing their speeches and of talking with them not to be convinced : the cradles of Quebec and Montreal and those of Paris, Lyons or Orléans hear the same sounds falling from the mothers' lips, hear the same language — French — of which those who speak it have the right to be proud since a thousand years".<sup>1</sup> Mr. René Viviani, the well known French statesman, said in a lecture at Paris on January 18th, 1918, "They (French Canadians) have helped to maintain, among them, that which is the noblest and most beautiful among us — the

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in *Le Devoir*, January 19th 1918.