

They have not the monopoly of this language, and the French Canadians who do not wish, at any cost, to lose their language, can learn, and in fact do learn to speak and write English just as well as the Irish. This is a fact well known and well established. We find them throughout the country and in the United States, in all positions, in all classes of society, and even in the Federal Parliament. Let it not be said that they have a foreign accent, that they can be recognized as French, which is far from being always true, because it could be stated just as well of the Irish, who themselves have a particular accent called brogue, more or less pronounced among individuals which makes them easily recognized as Irish. It is the same with the Scotch, the Americans and the English themselves, because even in England there is a slight difference of pronunciation in different parts of the country.

Very often I have heard the Irish laugh at the pronunciation of the Englishmen coming here from England, and saying that it is the Irish who pronounce English best.

The French Professors of the University speak English properly, and they can stand a comparison with any Irish Professor on the point of knowledge or ability to teach.

Among the professors there are Oblates who have come from France, many of whom have studied at Rome. It is these who are called strangers, and who are said not to be in sympathy with the national spirit of Canada.

One must keep his eyes on his crucifix to control his indignation on reading such an insult, such an accusation. The missionaries from France have never been considered strangers in Canada, either by the Church or by the State. It is these missionaries, and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who must be placed in the front rank, who have ably assisted the Bishops and secular clergy in the work of instruction, of colonization and civilization. Not only the French speaking Bishops have invited them to establish in their dioceses, missions and colleges, but the English speaking Bishops have had and still have recourse to their zeal and devotedness to attend the poorer missions and to maintain their Colleges.

It is the Basilian Fathers who are at the head of two large Catholic Colleges at Toronto and Sandwich. These Fathers belong to a Congregation of which the motherhouse is in France. It is the Fathers of the Resurrection who manage the College of St. Jerome at Berlin in the Diocese of Hamilton, and their motherhouse is in Europe. For the evangelization of the Indians the English speaking Bishops are obliged to have recourse to the ministrations of the French or French Canadians and the signers of the memorial call these missionaries who leave everything, country and family, to live and die in Canada, strangers.

The state expends enormous sums to attract Europeans. Irish from Ireland, as well as from other countries, to make them citizens, and it treats them as such. And behold, some Irishmen who look upon as strangers these venerable missionaries, these distinguished professors of the College of Ottawa, who have obtained the highest degrees at the Gregorian University, who have come to live in this country, to work for its moral, intellectual and religious progress, with a zeal, a self denial and a devotedness which could not be surpassed.

It is equally unjust to say that these professors are not in sympathy with the national spirit of Canada. If these gentlemen mean by the national spirit of Canada, the spirit they have shown in their document, it is true that the French and French Canadians will always oppose it, because it is a detestable spirit. Happily for the peace of the country, the mass of the Irish do not possess this spirit. I repeat here, the Irish left to themselves, have a spirit more Catholic than those who have placed their twenty-four signatures to the memorial. I am assured that they tried to obtain a larger number of signatures without being able to accomplish it.