

they cannot fail to be stimulating and suggestive to us, even when they are not entirely convincing.

Mr. Bourassa's articles have, in fact, been read with the greatest attention; and if we venture to criticise them, it is only after careful and repeated examination, and only from one particular side. With the facts stated in them, whether they are facts of history or of feeling, we shall not attempt to deal; we shall accept them as given, and such argument as we put forward will be founded upon them.

We learn then that not only do the French-Canadians already number 1,600,000 souls out of a population of about 4,000,000, but they increase much more rapidly than the English-speaking elements, doubling in number every twenty-five years. Further, though not so enterprising in business, they surpass their fellows by their inheritance of "vigorous morality," by their power of colonising, and also by their professional and intellectual aptitude. It would seem at first sight as if the future of Canada lay absolutely at their mercy. If this be the true resultant of the forces at work, if it be a state of things beneficial to the Dominion and to the progress of the world, it will not in the long run be unacceptable to Englishmen, who have never wasted time in lamenting the past, or borne a lasting grudge against the best man for winning in any contest. But it is Mr. Bourassa's own account of his people, which, when we look more closely into it, raises a doubt in our minds and suggests an answer. He affirms that the French-Canadian has no national motive but self-interest of an unusually narrow and calculating kind; that his chief political principles are passivity and love of the *status quo*, and that his outlook upon the world of men is taken from the standpoint of complete indifference.

The present feeling of the French-Canadian is one of contentment. He is satisfied with his lot. He is anxious to preserve his liberty and his peace. He is moderately ambitious to improve his personal and national situation, though perhaps too easily apt to rely more upon Providence and the development of outside causes than upon his own efforts. . . . About his future he remains most serenely unconcerned. This optimistic disposition of his individual temperament is equally manifest in his national life.