

encouraged. But in the mass I think it must be said that what looks to French-speaking Canadians as a denial of justice is not much more than a negation of interest. It probably requires a greater effort than most of us are willing to make, whatever language we speak, to get up an interest in the troubles of others. The very last thing any one wants to do, when he has the unbroken habit of filling his day with going to work, working and going home from work, is to bother about serious things outside that routine. Man is as indolent as he dare be, and indolence in matters of abstract speculation is a luxury not to be denied him.

Still, if these matters must be looked into, it has to be conceded that certain natural rights are as inalienable to one set of people as to another; that there are limits beyond which laws cannot be enforced against the assent of the governed; that the Scottish Covenanters refusing adherence to a law-made church, the English Nonconformists refusing support to law-made church schools, and the French-speaking parents of this country refusing to have their language stricken from the lips of their children in law-made schools, are all on exactly the same footing. Generally, indeed almost always, it happens that the essential justice of such resistance is unanimously conceded, but only long afterwards. There are few prepared to do, when such crises are actually upon them, what they say they would have done had they participated in crises long past. "Who would be free themselves must strike the blow." It was New England that caused the negro slave to be set free; but before that happened a New England mob had killed Lovejoy for his interest in the slave, and New England orators had pronounced that he died as the fool dieth, because law was against him.

We are not so bad as all that, hereabouts, for all the indifference we may mutually show concerning things on which others than ourselves are passionately interested. At heart, no Canadian will assent to seeing another Canadian wronged. Enlightenment is the first necessary step towards the restoration of concord if there exists a breach. Because by these articles he has let in the light, Mr Bourassa has rendered, to his own people and to the rest of us, an inestimable service.

J.-C. WALSH.

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