

armed the nations of Europe against one another, it is not patriotism, as much as the feeling of duty, that impels him to take up Britain's cause. Nevertheless, whatever may be said, thousands of French Canadians have enlisted and many of them have mingled their blood with that of the British soldiers on the battlefields.

What is the explanation of this? It is that the French Canadian remains attached to his religion, his customs and his language. Religion has, at all periods of his history, pointed out the part of duty as well as attachment to his customs and his language, has always kept him aloof from reactionary which might have imperilled those institutions to which he clings in his inmost heart.

What we now ask from our English-speaking fellow-countrymen is to remember that, if Canada has remained to England, the Catholic religion and the French language have greatly contributed to it, and also to not willingly shut their eyes to a historical fact fully proven.

Why then should it be sought, in certain quarters, to deprive the French-Canadians of the rights they have won by three hundred years of arduous toil in this land of America, by loyalty to the British Crown for one hundred and fifty years? Why should we not unite in a common effort to make our country great and powerful?

May I be permitted to repeat here the noble words addressed by Mayor Lavigueur, to the distinguished delegates of the "Bonne Entente", from Ontario when he welcomed them on behalf of the French-speaking population of the old city of Quebec. They admirably sum up the feelings that should live in the hearts of all the inhabitants of the great Canadian Confederation:

"When cathedrals were built in France, in England and elsewhere, an entire population, united in Christian intention, would labour with religious enthusiasm to build their indestructible walls. Then high towers would be erected on either side of the monumental portico. But that was not all. It was desired to put bells in those towers which, from their dizzy height, would fill the surroundings with their melodious peals.

All the people would gather together while the bells were being cast, and follow the difficult operation with anxious interest.

Into the molten metal, every one would throw a jewel, a bronze or valuable vase, pieces of gold and silver, even the widow's mite and the offerings of the poorest and of children, so that every one could say that he had contributed something to the casting of the bells, and that his humble voice would mingle with the multitude of powerful and harmonious sounds proclaiming the glory of God and expressing the joys, sorrows and hopes of all.