

That similar influences have taken foothold in Cape Breton since the first arrival of Highlanders in 1802, will be seen from the following passage:—

"The great influx of Scottish immigrants (said by some authorities to have exceeded 25,000 souls) gave quite a new complexion to the population of Cape Breton, if it can with propriety be said that it was before their arrival distinguished by any complexion whatever, being composed only of a few hundred Micmacs, Acadians, and English and Irish settlers. The Island is now decidedly Scotch, with every probability of its continuing so to the end of time." (Brown's History of Cape Breton.)

Prince Edward Island, whose population of 110,000 contains 50,000 Scotch, somewhat shares these characteristics. Gaelic, however, is far rarer and the dialecticisms, chiefly Lowland, are disappearing. The British "reel," for the American "spool," used throughout the country, may be taken as an instance of differences. A "spool" in Prince Edward Island means, on the other hand, that larger article which Montrealers know as a "reel." In the use of "reel" for "spool," however, Prince Edward people are not entirely British, for in place of "a reel of cotton" they compromise with "a reel of thread."

#### FRENCH TERRITORIAL DISPLACEMENTS.

Proceeding eastward from the Maritime Provinces, we arrive at that other great standing fact which affects Canadian English—the territorial extension of French. It is well-known that the population speaking that language in the Province of Quebec are pressing seriously on the rural English and replacing them over considerable districts. While Anglo-Saxons, being deterred by no great disadvantages of language or manners, easily migrate from one part of the continent to another, the French spread from centres and take the places of the migrants. In Prince Edward Island the same process occurs with the non-emigrating Acadian. In New Brunswick a large body speaking the Acadian *patois* (which differs from that of Quebec) boasts freely of the progress of their "mission" to reconquer the land for their tongue. Along the Ottawa river the process takes organized expression in legislature-aided schemes, among which is a "National Colonization Lottery." The chief colonizer, Curé Labelle, of St. Jerome, in a great speech last year, pointed out to his hearers the triangular shape of the Ontario Peninsula and the east-and-west course of its Northern boundary, the Ottawa. "Let us possess the North," he cried, in substance, "and with our marvellous power of expansion and the help of the Eternal, we will drive the English down at least to the southern corner and control Canada!"

The plan is the ordinary one of the Jesuits—to bind together ignorant masses and use them *en bloc*, and will doubtless prove finally chimerical in its effect towards their objects; but linguistically in the meantime it introduces a very serious question of territorial displacement for the Saxon tongue. At present it has the aspect of advance; in Ontario already the city of Ottawa returns a French mayor and French members of Parliament; in the counties of Russell and Prescott the political power is theirs; among the voters of Lancaster and Glengarry they form an important following; and in Montreal and Quebec the English centres of their peculiar province, they have lately made notable strides.

#### FRENCH TERMS IN USE.

But, besides territorial displacement, French influence has been working in the less disquieting department of phrases.

In Lower Canada, owing to its inheritance of a French legal system, the everyday technical speech of the English advocates, and the text of their manuals, bristle with French terms, even though many of these have perfect equivalents in English. Opening a page in a well-known manual I meet with *grevé de substitution*; *nue propriété*; *auteur*; *acte* (for "deed"); *auteur* again; *inscription en faux*; *sous seing privé*; and "petitory action"; recalling the Norman words which have come down in the legal jargon of Blackstone. In place of "barrister" and "solicitor," the "advocate" and "notary" of Latin law systems take their place.

Besides law-terms, the peculiar institutions of the country past and present have given us such as the feudal "Seigneur" and "the concessions"; the ecclesiastical *curé*, *parish*, *Fabrique*, etc.; the historical *voyageur* and *couvreur du bois*; *habitant*, *beefs* (hide boots or "packs"), *étajon pays*, "The St. Jean Baptiste" (holiday), "the Fête Dieu," "the old régime," are home words of the Province. *Arpent* denotes the French acre.

To Bluenoses *loup-cervier* has yielded "lucivee"—lynx-cat.

The market gives Montreal its "famews" (*Fameuse* apples); "doré" or "dory" for "pike"; "maskinongé" (original Indian) for "sturgeon."

In that city the Champ de Mars is "Shandy Mars." "Carter" (*charretier*) is much used for "cabman"; though the local guild styles itself "Hackmen's Union," after American usage.

"Lacrosse" exhibits some curious forms. The French call the game *le jeu de crosse*; "a lacrosse" is *une crosse*; our plural "lacrosses" is of course *des croses*. "Cowhole" is the transmigrated form of *cabot*, "calash" of *calèche*, "carry-all" of *cariole*.

When we use that euphemism for Quebec, "The Ancient Capital," which always heads the *Witness* telegraphic despatches, we are but placing a happily mistaken translation on *l'ancien capital*—"the former capital." Here is an advertisement from the *Star*:

"THREE RIVERS SEMINARY CONVENTUM.—A meeting of the ancient students of this institution will be held in the Cabinet de Lecture Paroissiale, on Friday at 8 p.m. Ancient students cordially invited to attend."

The sharp contrast made by language in this Province between its peoples has occasioned the application of "English" and "the English" in the peculiar sense of "English-speaking" to include all British and American inhabitants under ordinary circumstances.

The word "Canadian" itself is taken in its present form from the French. In a translation of Labontan's travels, dated 1763, the English form used is "Canadians." Labontan again, following others, applies "Canadiens," like "Canadois" in the Jesuit *relations* only to Indians of the country; thence it became the designation of all the French natives of this continent, including those of Louisiana; and now the native British residents enthusiastically accept the name. In Nova Scotia, however, "Canada" and "Canadian" mean perhaps most frequently the former Province of Canada (Upper and Lower) and its people. There are two pronunciations—one "Canadians," the other less musical but older—"Canajans." The older form has caught a peculiarity of the local *patois*. Where a Parisian would say *du thé*, the French-Canadian pronounces "du thé."

The influence of French is particularly strong on isolated English communities, such as the remnants of Loyalist and half-pay military circles and small business colonies found in some French villages. With them the pronunciation acquires a pleading or expostulating form, and the speech is interlarded with French phrases and idioms: "the hangard," "the chaloupe," the exclamation "Is that true?" (*Est ce vrai?*) when hearing a narration.

Among names of places, "Mill-rush," on the St. Lawrence River, was once Milles Roches; several counties which once formed the district of Chateauguay are still named indefinitely "Shattagee." So in Cape Breton, "Big Lorrain" was Grande Lorraine and the river "Margarie" the Marguerite.

The influence, it may be remarked, is reciprocal. "Second-hand store" becomes "*magasin de seconde-main*," "*épicerie*" often "grocerie," and so forth; and it is said there are vast numbers of such corruptions in Acadian. Indeed far greater, clearly, must be the encroachments of the multifarious and educated civilization of the continental majority than can be those of the poor provincial dialect, badly supplied with terms for modern use, which represents France here, and energetic have been the efforts of "national" writers to eject the British material. But the speech of educated France is being introduced, and may place the unconscious struggle on a somewhat new basis, as it undoubtedly has shown promise of doing in the creation of a local press and book literature.

#### LOWER CANADIAN DIALECTS.

Aside from French influence, the English speech of the Province of Quebec, which contains the smallest British population of all provinces in the Dominion, is broken into the greatest number of dialects. The Eastern townships, which were originally settled by a few Loyalists, are now linguistically for the most part a mere extension of the New England States; about Drummondville, and through the country, is said to be spoken the English of General Heriot's soldiers, who were induced to settle in that region; it has been also said, I cannot say with what truth, that the people speak differently on opposite sides of the St. Francis in some parts; and certainly the "Shattagee" people speak a variety unlike any of the rest.

#### THE CHATEAUGUAY SCOTCH.

This Chateauguay speech dominates the north half of Huntingdon county and the English-speaking neighbourhood in the present counties of Chateauguay and Beauharnois, where the earliest settlements were Scotch; Americanisms and school English have greatly detracted the "burr" and produced the tendencies to the nasal, besides replacing many phrases; yet the peculiarities may be roughly exemplified in the following:

(1) The use of "them" for adjective "those"—almost universal in Canadian country districts; (2) the mention of thick liquids, such as soup and porridge, in the plural, i.e., "do you like them thick or thin?"; (3) "fur to" for infinitival "to"; (4) "twenty o' them's going"; (5) "just like" nearly always used for "like"; (6) "I ask, have you anything more to say"; (7) "the blame is not all on the side of him"; (8) "the terrible bad condition of the roads"; (9) "to help replenish his pocket"; (10) "or neither did he indicate"; (11) "the undersigned would inform the public"; (12) "six foot of," "six load of"; (13) "you"; (14) "near to"; (15) "a man by the name of"; (16) "porridge" in contrast to the neighbouring American "mush," "oatmeal" or "suppaw" (Dutch); "daft"; "dour"; "fou"; "canny"; "poorly" (ill); "ing-ins" (onions); "gayrl" (girl); "weemen" (women); "near" (stingy); "dighted" (silly.)

The influence of Americans shows in the use of "a rushing business," "the fall" (autumn), and so forth. "Store" has in general replaced "shop" for a simple place of business, but not where the keeper is a mechanic; as "J. G. Johnson's tin shop and toy store," "boot and shoe shop," and (showing the unsettled state of the terms) "agricultural shop."

#### OTHER DIALECTS.

Other local dialects I can only mention in broad terms, as the Loyalists established themselves in a fringe along our whole border, so their speech has almost everywhere

become predominant; in Ontario most completely of all. Yet even there some of the lately settled districts preserve Lowland Scottish character; some, as about Lucan, are said to be quite Irish, while the Glengarry region, owing to Highland settlement, contains conditions similar at present to those of Pictou, though the Anglicizing influences are more active.

It should be remarked that the Ontario Loyalist speech is recognized to differ considerably from that of the Maritime Provinces for three reasons: there has been more immigration; education has been better diffused; the stocks came originally from different quarters of the American colonies. "Ontario," condenses Mr. Dawson, in his excellent little handbook, "was settled in its whole length by Loyalists mainly from New York and the middle colonies; all the rocky Atlantic coast of Acadia was settled from Massachusetts and the Eastern States." To appreciate the difference it should be understood that Pennsylvania then contained a large number of Quaker people and of Hollanders and Palatine Germans; while New York was a feudal and largely a Dutch Province. Dutch names are very common in the older districts of Ontario.

The road is now clear for some general observations.

One is, that in our large towns bodies of Irish immigrants have affected the pronunciation and phrases of the lower classes, while a similar effect is being produced upon the society class by English comers.

#### AMERICAN INFLUENCE.

A second observation is—what few British Canadians suspect—the great likeness of our speech, in phrases, if not pronunciation, to that of the Americans; partly due to the Loyalist foundations, partly to close and constant communication socially, commercially, and through the press. A very cursory examination will show that the United States have been, and are to-day, the source of the strongest of all influences bearing on our current speech. Though we have nowhere—except, perhaps, along the Vermont frontier—quite the New England twang or drawl, the people of Old England remark in our accent a well-defined tendency to the nasal; and though in few districts outside of Blue-Noseddom can one hear the "I guess," "I reckon," "I calculate"; though "real nice," "why, yes, indeed," and "wall, now!" remain still foreign; though "orate" and "placate" and "to suicide" have haply not taken root, yet what Canadian, on reading a list of Americanisms like, say that in "Appleton's Cyclopædia," will not feel surprise at his familiarity with the greater number. Is there anything strange in "the balance" for "remainder," "bluffing it off," "cars," "horse-cars," "street-cars," a railway "check," a "trunk," "dry-goods," "dry-goods clerk," "dock" (wharf), "clever" (skilful), "gentlemanly," "hitch" (tie up horse), "is that so?" "what's that?" (Brit. "what do you say?"), "mean" (unkind), "sidewalk," "he lives on State Street" (Brit. "in State Street"), "store," "talented," "reliable," "ticket-office," "pants," and so forth. There is no help for it, we must admit that in this we have been annexed. It is a saving truth in the matter that we seem to adopt terms rather than grammatical eccentricities.

Through the American, and from our New York Loyalists we have accepted a few Dutch words: "boss" (master), "stoop" (threshold), "knickerbockers" (kneebreeches), etc. "Knickerbockers" has gone over the seas.

American slang and American dialect must not be forgotten as acting forces, as the columns of country newspapers amply testify.

#### UNIVERSAL CANADIANISMS.

Besides localisms and Americanisms, there are a few terms which are peculiar to the whole of the country. Such are, "sleigh" for "sled"; "bob-sleigh" or "bob"; "pointer" (a long boy's sled), "American" (obviously a Loyalist use) for inhabitant of the United States; "the States," for the United States themselves; "the line"; "the boundary line"; "the lines," for their frontier; "Home," for Great Britain; "the Home Government"; "toboggan"; "lacrosse," etc. "Tommy-cods" are well-known little fish caught in the St. Lawrence through the winter ice. "The Grits" is the universal word among the Conservatives for the Liberal party. "Rouge," "Bleu," "Cas-tor," are political terms drawn from, and chiefly used in, Quebec. "Johnny Baptiste" in Ontario and "Canuck" in English-speaking Quebec, apply sometimes to the French-Canadian.

We are now in a position to make some forecasts for the future.

The influence of the newspaper press—that paramount influence now—will it is probable, increasingly as the United States and ourselves progress in importance, approximate us in language to the Americans.

Education and culture in the two countries or in whatever political divisions replace them, will in their advance improve the press and prune from the speech—especially the written speech—of both people, their cruder peculiarities leading them in general direction ever back towards the standard of England's great literature, but amplifying with such new materials as shall on trial be found useful.

Localisms will, in most small neighbourhoods undergo various rates of disappearance, but the less striking will long characterize broad neighbourhoods; while a new condition in their favour will arrive when the comparative occupation of the continent shall lessen the inducements to immigrate.

What the effect of the *Prairie and Rocky Mountain* country may be is shrouded till we can make out its elements of immigration. The "ranch," the "blizzard,"