

English is required of the French schools as something more than the pursuit of an accomplishment ; and it is not the surface uniformity alone of a common language that is the sole or even the main purpose of the ordinance. The underlying real purpose is to bring a new section of the commonwealth into living communion with English modes of thought, into true sympathy with the nature of the institutions under which this people have chosen to live and in the modifications of which they are already permitted to bear their part. To them, without understanding, our polity can be only a lifeless form, our government no more than a troublesome overseer, our law but a fetich to be approached with careful formularies. We seek to incorporate strangers to our way of life into the body politic, and must proceed without harshness or seeming injustice, else the day of solid union may be protracted far beyond our desires.