

and a warlike—a characterized people. But have they not become ignoble and rapacious, tame to foreign insult and spoliation, and intractable to legitimate authority? As commerce is their national bond of union, is not knavery their predominant national characteristic? That trade, which seems to be their sole pursuit, unless disciplined, within due bounds, will lead from base submission to bloody hostilities and inevitable destruction.

It has long been a favourite opinion with several distinguished men here, and particularly with Cardinal Maury, that it would not be impossible to substitute the Catholic religion for the deplorable deluge of creeds that has flowed upon them with what they call toleration; and the French language for the German, Irish, English, and other dialects that prevail. French is now the most general language of the civilized nations of the world. The English colonies are the only parts of the globe, in which it is probable the English tongue will be preserved: and as it would contribute greatly to the facilities of international intercourse, that at least the civilized portions of the earth should speak the same language, I cannot consider it an unreasonable requisition of the Americans to adopt French as their vernacular. Do you believe the opposition to this change would be insurmountable? Their neighbours of Canada and Louisiana have already this advantage, which the inhabitants of the states might easily acquire. I wished to have conversed with you on this subject, and some others of a similar kind; but my indisposition and your short stay in Liège, deprived me of the opportunity.

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