

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 29c

The Political Evils which we labour under arise in my apprehension from two principal causes, 1st From French predilections in the great Mass of the Inhabitants, and 2^{dy} From want of Influence and power in the Executive Government, from the former, arises that distinction between the Government and the People, which is daily and too visibly productive of mutual distrust, jealousies, and even enmity, and from the latter a total inability to produce the means by which the effects of that distinction may be counteracted. What must be the result, if things remain as they are is obvious, No hopes can be entertained, that French predilections can be obliterated from the minds of His Majesty's Canadian Subjects, and if they be not counteracted, they will continue to augment until by some crisis, force will be required and the future state and condition of Canada will then be decided by a recourse to arms.

The great links of connection between a Government and its subjects are religious [religion,] Laws, and Language, & when Conquerors possess the same religion, and use the same Laws and the same Language as the Conquered, the incorporation of both into one political body is easily effected: But when they are at variance on these points, experience seems to have demonstrated in Canada, that it cannot at all be effected while this variance subsists. Obedience may be rendered by conquered subjects under such circumstances, but it is the obedience of a Foreigner to a Government which in his estimation is not his own, and as he views it as an alien power, there is no attachment, no affection in his mind towards it, and consequently no disposition to unite with those who constitute the Government or its natural subjects. Every favor conferred is considered to be no more than what is due to them, or as a matter obtained from persons who would not have conceded so much if it had been possible for them to retain it. No Confidence exists, and he is in a continual belief, That more is meditated by the Government, in every of its measures, than meets his Eye. At the conquest of Canada, the conquerors were Englishmen & Protestants. They spoke the English Language & no other, they were attached to the English Laws, and fostered in their minds a natural antipathy against Frenchmen. The English Subjects of the present day who are settled in Canada, having no cause to be dissatisfied with the religion the Language or the Laws of their Mother Country, & having no cause to be better pleased with France than their Forefathers, are now precisely what the conquerors of Canada were; on the other hand the People of Canada at the Conquest were Frenchmen, and Roman Catholics, They spoke the French Language, and no other, they were attached to French Laws, & fostered in their minds a National antipathy against Englishmen, since that period. By the Statute 14, Geo. III. c. 83^l the Laws of France have been enacted, and declared to be the Laws of Canada. And the Roman Catholic Religion has been established in the Province, and as it has not been thought adviseable, by any Act of Parliament or other means to attempt the general introduction of the English Language, The French Tongue universally prevails, even in the Courts of Justice & in the Legislature, the Canadians therefore in those several Respects, are also precisely what they were at the conquest. They are still Frenchmen, their habits (the fruits of their Religion, & their Laws) are still the habits of Frenchmen, and so much in opposition to the habits of our own people, tho' there is no intercourse between them; I fear I may add with truth that the antipathy of Canadians, and English Subjects against each other, is mutually as great as ever.

It seems, Sir, to me, impossible that the incorporation of two such Extremes can ever be effected, and to this I add, that no change in the Laws or religion of the Country can be even expected until the Majority of its inhabitants are Englishmen, in principle, and that while the number of English settlers remains so small in comparison to that of the Canadians, a change in Language, cannot be looked for,

1. The Quebec Act. See *Constitutional Documents, 1759-1791* Shortt and Doughty, 1907, page 401.