

THE WAR OF 1812.

Again, during the war of 1812, when along an unguarded frontier of nearly one thousand miles, attempts were made at various points to enter the country—when Montreal and Toronto were laid in ashes, to whom were we largely indebted for the defence of the country, and for the defeat of the American invader? Perhaps the most brilliant victory in the whole campaign was that achieved by Col. de Salaberry, at Chateauguay. And if you will read the addresses of the Governors of Canada at that time you will see how strongly they appreciated the loyalty of the French Canadian volunteers. And so history has kept repeating itself all through the century. In 1866 more than one French Canadian regiment was on duty to repel the Fenian invaders; in 1886 they assisted in suppressing the rebellion in the North-west, and in the following year Lord Wolseley was glad to avail himself of their skill and enterprise in piercing into the heart of Africa to defend the honor of England beyond the deserts of the Soudan. With such a record, the honor of which we were proud to share, is it generous of us, to say the least of it, to speak of our French Canadian fellow citizens as an alien race? But this is not all.

SYMPATHY WITH LIBERTY.

In the administration of public affairs they have shown the deepest sympathy with the progress of human liberty. Nearly sixty years before slavery was abolished in the United States it had ceased to exist entirely in the Province of Quebec, not so much from any legislative enactment as from the growth of a public sentiment favorable to personal liberty. Thirty years before the English had relieved her Jewish fellow subjects from political disability, the Province of Quebec had accorded them all the rights of citizenship. When we were engaged during the agitation of 1837 in asserting our rights to responsible government, our fellow citizens in the Eastern Province were carrying on a similar agitation. Every argument that the leaders of public opinion then used in Ontario to enforce the rights of the people met with a ready response in Quebec, and were it not for that