

seigniorial tenure—the great land question of Canada for years—was abolished with the consent of the proprietors, who received a large sum of money from the Government for the extinction of their rights. The ability and energy with which the public men of Canada grappled with this land difficulty is one of the many evidences the history of the country gives us of their practical sagacity in carrying on the administration of affairs. The difficulty was settled with a due regard to all vested rights, and the results have been most satisfactory in the rural districts of French Canada. The province of Quebec is less favoured than the province of Ontario with respect to climate and soil. The French system of sub-dividing farms among the members of a family has tended to cut up the land unprofitably, and it is a curious sight to see the number of extremely narrow lots throughout the French settlements. It must be admitted too that the French population has less enterprise, and less disposition to adopt new machines and improved agricultural implements, than the people of the other provinces. As a rule, the habitant lives contentedly on very little. Give him a pipe of native tobacco, a chance of discussing politics, a gossip with his fellows at the church door after service, a visit now and then to the county town, and he will be happy. It does not take much to amuse him, while he is quite satisfied that his spiritual safety is secured as long as he is within sound of the church bells, goes regularly to confession, and observes all the *fêtes d'obligation*. If he or one of his family can only get a little office in the municipality, or in the 'government,' then his happiness is nearly perfect. Indeed if he were not a bureaucrat, he would very much belie his French origin. Take him all in all, however, Jean-Baptiste, as he is familiarly known from the patron saint of French Canada, has many excellent qualities. He is naturally polite, steady in his habits, and conservative in his instincts. He is excitable and troublesome only when his political passions are thoroughly aroused, or his religious principles are at stake; and then it is impossible to say to what extremes he will go.

In his conservatism and love for tradition the educated French Canadian has little love for innovations of any kind. He is too ready to continue in the old well beaten paths, and too slow to