

oured, as he said, to show the true situation of the country; he wrote at length about the respective positions of the French and English and concluded by these words which denote a very discerning mind: "Having arrayed the strength of His Majesty's old and new subjects (1) and shewn the great Superiority of the Latter, it may not be amiss to observe that there is not the least probability this present superiority should ever diminish; on the contrary, it is more than probable it will increase and strengthen daily. The Europeans, who migrate never, will prefer the long inhospitable winters of Canada to the more cheerful climates, and more fruitful soil of His Majesty's Southern Provinces.

"The few old subjects, at present in this province, have been mostly left here by accident, and are either disbanded officers, soldiers, or followers of the army, who, not knowing how to dispose of themselves elsewhere, settled where they were left at the reduction; or else they are adventurers in trade, or such as could not remain at home, who set out to mend their fortunes, at the opening of this new channel for commerce, but experience has taught almost all of them, that this trade requires a strict frugality they are strangers to, or to which they will not submit; so that some, from more advantageous views elsewhere, others from necessity, have already left this province, and I greatly fear many more, for the same reasons, will follow their example in a few years. But while this severe climate, and the poverty of the country discourages all but the natives, its healthfulness is such that these multiply daily, so that, barring a catastrophe shocking to think of, this country must, to the end of time, be peopled by the Canadian race, who already have taken such firm root, and got to so great a height, that any new stock transplanted will be totally hid, and imperceptible amongst them, except in the towns of Quebec and Montreal." (2)

Carleton was right. When the disasters of the war were repaired the people had regained courage and again set to work to till the soil. The English immigration that had been dreaded was entirely of no account. There was no change in the usages and customs of the people; directed and advised by their priests, supported and protected by the seigniors and nobles of the old regime, the inhabitants were rather indifferent to foreign domination. Without heed to the laws and political combinations of England, they found in their union with the clergy a strength of resistance which thwarted all the plans formed for denationalizing them. They kept their language and their religion and worked to assure their possession of the soil by taking up the vacant lands in the old seigniories; solidly united, they were soon to form a compact, homogeneous and ever-growing mass which no outside force could break and all the more so because a terrible, though foreseen blow, was to cause a great gulf between them and their old mother country.

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(1) His Majesty's "old subjects" were the English who had migrated to Canada; the "new subjects", were the French-Canadians.

(2) Carleton to Shelburne, 25th Nov., 1767. Const. Doc., (1759-1791), p. 198.