

contrary, it is spoken by the educated classes with a purity not excelled in France itself. The better class of French Canadians take pride in studying the language of the country of their ancestors, and are rarely guilty of Anglicisms, though these have necessarily crept into mixed communities, where people are forced to speak both French and English. In the rural districts, isolated from large towns, the people retain the language as it was spoken two centuries ago—even the old, forgotten pronunciation—and consequently many words and phrases which are rarely if ever heard in France, still exist among the peasantry of French Canada, just as we find in New England many expressions which are not pure Americanisms but really memorials of old English times. In French Canada the Anglicisms are such as would occur under the natural conditions of things. The native of Old France has no words for 'clearing' the forest, making maple sugar, 'blazing' a way through the woods or over the ice and snow of the rivers and lakes, and consequently the vocabulary of the French Canadian has been considerably enlarged by local circumstances.

[The people of Quebec are very tenacious of their language, and endeavour to keep it intact from the encroaching influence of the English-speaking communities, now largely in the majority throughout the Dominion. Ever since the conquest, the language and religion of France have been carefully guarded, first by the Treaty of 1763, and again by the charters and constitutions granted by England to Canada from time to time as the country increased in wealth and population. *Notre langue, notre foi, et nos lois* has been the key-note of French Canadian politics for over a century. No part of the constitution of 1840, which reunited Upper and Lower Canada after the rebellion of 1837-8, gave greater offence to the French Canadians than the clause which practically eliminated their language from legislative records and proceedings, for it was generally regarded by them as conclusive evidence of the policy of the British Government to obliterate them as a distinct race, and make them in the course of time English in language, thought, and institutions. But the French