

was the commencement of the effort to create the enmity of race, which ended in the abortive rebellion of 1837. At the date of its appearance there was no such antagonism. The conductors of the journal simply claimed the freedom of a British subject as the right of the Canadian.\* They likewise undertook that nothing should appear at variance with religion, morality, or the interests of the state.†

The paper was started by subscription, a small press having been obtained. One avowed object was the vindication of the French Canadian character from what was considered to be the unfair attacks made against it. The motto selected as representative of the principles to be acted upon was "*Nos institutions, notre langue, et nos lois.*" None knew better than its writers the impossibility of living under institutions controlled by the will of the French intendant. The cry, however, had its uses; it was an appeal to the patriotism of the *habitant* without education or political knowledge, and suggested a wrong suffered or threatened. As this history shews, there had been, as far as possible, full consideration shewn to the ancient laws; the language had received recognition in the house; while the whole French Canadian population in the entire province could not have exceeded 130,000 in a total of 160,000, about three-fourths of the present population of Montreal. The writing in the *Canadien* is not marked by any particular ability; it advocated no policy of change or advancement. In view of the political opinions expressed, its tone was on all occasions in opposition to the policy of the government, and antagonistic to commercial interests, in its advocacy of the pre-eminence of agriculture. What was really offensive on the part of the conductors was their continual readiness to create or to awaken national antipathies. Until the rancour which was introduced in these columns, there was no French Canadian party as such. It was this newspaper

\* "La liberté d'un Anglais qui est à présent celle d'un Canadien."

† "Rien de contraire à la religion, aux bonnes moeurs ou à l'intérêt de l'état."