

Thus, at the outset, the new subjects of the British Crown showed themselves thoroughly loyal. There was some hesitation perhaps among the country people at the time of the American invasion, but if we look back to that period; if we consider what strong influences were brought to bear by the revolted American colonies to induce the Canadians to rebel; if we remember that they who headed the revolutionary movement in certain parts of the province were British subjects themselves, we cannot be astonished that a few peasants, whose good faith was imposed upon by the rebels' declarations, should for an instant have felt inclined towards rebellion. With few exceptions, the people hearkened to the voice of their bishops, priests and seigniors, calling upon them to remember their oath of allegiance to the British Crown, and preaching to them on the obligation binding them to take arms in defence of its threatened territory. And when Montgomery made his final assault on Quebec, during the night of the 31st December, 1775, the Canadians enrolled in the Militia fought side by side with the British soldiers, playing an important part in winning the victory which thwarted the Americans' plans.

"Whether Canada would have become independent, or a state of the Union if the French had listened favorably to these suggestions, will never be known", says Mr. W. Moore, in the *Canadian Courier*; "for relying on the inviolability of a British pledge of the right to self-expression, they remained true to Great Britain in the years when her Empire appeared to be crumbling to pieces. When peace was declared, the Union Jack waved over no other part of the North American Continent than that dominated by the French Canadians. Out of the mass of intricate forces which governed conditions during the War of the Revolution, the salient fact stands forth that the English-speaking Americans threw off British Sovereignty and the French-Speaking Americans retained it."

We need not add that what happened then, repeats itself today. The voice of the bishops reminding our people of their duty to the British Crown in the present war has been heard, although the French Canadians' position in this country is quite different from that of the British-born subject. The former, in fact, does not understand devotedness to the mother country in the same manner as the Englishman. As Sir Lomer Gouin recently said in Toronto: "The Englishman, the Scotchman, the Irishman re-crosses the ocean from time to time to visit his native land or the country of his ancestors, and calls it "a going home". The French Canadian, unlike his fellow citizens of other origins, has no other home than Canada".

To his mind, he owes himself to his country, to that fine country in which seven or eight generations of his people have sacrificed themselves, which the strong arms of his fore-fathers have cleared of its vast forests and opened to settlement, which his missionaries have watered with their blood. Today, in the terrible conflict which has