

## CHAPTER I.

### *Whence Come The New Canadians?*

The Majority of the New Canadians in this country came from countries where the church is a department of the State. Those who came from European countries were members largely of the Roman and the Greek Catholic Churches, which are in a paralyzed condition. These churches have for ages kept millions of the people in superstition, immorality and the worship of images or ikons. They are systems without the message of life and without spiritual power. Their priests tell the people that out of the church—by which is meant the visible and hierarchical church, the Roman and Greek Catholic—there is no salvation. They, in many respects, look upon secular education as an evil thing and forbid the great masses the right to any education. They were and are largely responsible for the fact that a high percentage of the people, in some of these European countries that are dominated by the Roman or the Greek Catholic Churches, are illiterate. Actually most of the people cannot read or write. The clergy of these churches do not wish the illumination of the masses, because when the people have light they are able to choose between right and wrong and then the priests will not be able to lead them any more as they did when they were in ignorance. Furthermore, the people are taught by these churches, that progress cannot be achieved in any other way than by praying to the saints and ikons of the church. The people are so deeply sunk in ignorance even to-day in the twentieth century, that they really worship the priests instead of God. In many cases when a priest is passing along the street, there are certain families that kneel down in their own houses and if they are on the street they kiss the hand of the priest.

This is the situation in the lands from which many of the New Canadians came who are now living within the borders of this country. What does this mean for the Baptists of Canada? Does it not mean a great privilege and a great challenge? If these new elements are to be the material for building the commonwealth of Canada of the future they must first be Christianized. There are many who think that because almost all of the New Canadians came from non-democratic countries, therefore, they need to be taught democracy.