

I have dwelt at some length on these *chansons populaires* of Canada, because they afford some evidence of the tenacity with which the people cling to the customs, traditions, and associations of the land of their origin. Indeed, their love for Old France still lies deep in the hearts of the people, and both young and old study her best literature, and find their greatest pride in her recognition of their poets and writers. It is the ambition of every educated French Canadian to spend some time in France, though very few of them ever leave Canada permanently. Some of the young French Canadians are imbued with French ideas, and would like to see French capital and enterprise introduced into the Dominion. But so far there has been no immigration from France, and the efforts to bring in capital from the same country have not been successful to any extent. It is quite evident that while there exists among the more influential and cultured class a sentimental attachment to Old France, there is a still deeper feeling, strengthened by the political freedom and material progress of the past forty years, that the connection with the British Empire gives the best guarantee for the preservation of their liberties and rights. No doubt the influence of the Roman Catholic priesthood has had much to do with perpetuating the connection with England. They feel that it is not by a connection with France or the United States that their religious and civil institutions are best conserved. Besides, the sympathies of the great mass of the people of the province are not republican but monarchical, and they view with disfavour the levelling tendencies of the ruling powers in France.

If we come to inquire into the causes of the content and prosperity which, on the whole, have for many years characterized the French Canadian population, we find that they are the natural outcome of the stability and freedom of the political system under which they live. So far there are three eras in the political history of French Canada. First, there was the French régime, when the colony was poor and struggling against many difficulties, and never enjoyed even a semblance of self-government either in their municipal or provincial affairs.

'The institutions of France,' says Lord Durham in his remarkably able report, 'during the period of the colonization of Canada, were, perhaps,