

tions and disparity between the conquerers and conquered, the aversion, and envy of the latter are not directed to the national characteristics, but to the authority, control, and rank of the former. Men bereft of all liberty, subject to the absolute tyranny and unbounded rapacity of others, may, as long as they continue thus abject, retain their peculiar manners, customs, and language, but not their independence or patriotism; and as soon as an opening is given them to participate in the authority and power of their conquerers, they will to facilitate their own civil advancement, resign the marks of that society they wish to desert, and adopt the characteristics of the people to whom they are ambitious to approximate. The cause then of the language and customs of one people being acquired, and those of another relinquished is the interest of the latter. If Great Britain had conquered Canada without making the least concession; if she had not conferred any political immunities, but as the rancour and mortification of the vanquished subsided, she had gradually granted them the constitution they now enjoy, we may fairly speculate that by this time, there would be but few national distinctions in Montreal.

With regard to the sudden and great benefits which History testifies accrued to towns on being invested with corporated rights, we must submit that they resulted from the removal of evils