

uage of Louis XIV.; and that His Excellency, Earl Grey, recommended the study of French to the pupils of an English college in Winnipeg, at the same time that the **News** of Toronto proclaimed its inprescriptible rights.⁴⁵

At the risk of offending certain shortsighted and restricted minds, our children will continue to learn their French language, they will be encouraged thereto by the principles of an enlightened pedagogy, no less than by the ineradicable feelings of a faithful and wise patriotism. Nor is it the English of good race, heirs of the true British nobility and largeness of mind, of whom, thank God, there are still some left; it is not the Irish who have the true feeling of national strength, such as those who lately congratulated M. Bourassa on his stand on the question of races in Canada, and were not afraid to assert "**that which is just in Ireland is equally just in Canada**;"⁴⁶ nor, finally, will any man who has a real sense of justice and dignity, ever blame us for so unalterable an attachment to our language. If others are offended at it, that is no concern of ours.

Our pupils learn French because their parents wish them to learn French, and the first school masters are not the teachers, nor the state, but the parents, in virtue of a natural right. The parents wish the children to learn their language because it is their duty no less than their right, a right and a duty which have their roots in natural morality it-

⁴⁵*Le Devoir*, March 18, 1912.

⁴⁶See, also, what Lord Mudley said on this subject in April, 1909 (*Bilingualism in Ontario*) Ottawa French Canadian Educational Association of Ontario, 1911, p. 10.