

in all matters of controversy, relative to property and civil rights, recourse should be had to the French civil procedure, whilst the Criminal Law of England should obtain to the exclusion of every other criminal code which might have prevailed before 1774. The Quebec Act was passed at a time when the old English Colonies were on the eve of revolution, and there was consequently a strong desire on the part of the English Government to gain the sympathies of the French Canadians. The historian Garneau, who represents French Canadian views in his able work, in fact acknowledges that 'the law of 1774 tended to reconcile the Canadians to British rule.' [From the coming into effect of the Quebec Act up to the present time, there has been a steady improvement in the social, political, and material condition of the people. French Canada now occupies a high position among the communities of the Continent, and many of her sons have been able to win for themselves a conspicuous place in the administration of public affairs, in education, in literature, and in other pursuits of life.

*From 1774 to the present time*

It is the intention of the writer to give a brief review of the leading features of the progress of the community which dwells by the St. Lawrence and its tributary rivers. In the old times of Canada, before the federal union of the provinces, the large section of British North America inhabited by the French-speaking people was known as Lower Canada, but now it is distinguished by the historic name of Quebec, in honour of the interesting old city founded by Champlain, the pioneer of French settlement in New France. [The tourist who travels through this province, sees on all sides the evidence that he is passing through a country of French origin. Here and there in Quebec or Montreal, or in some quiet village sequestered in a valley or elevated on the Laurentian hills, he sees houses and churches which remind him of many a hamlet or town he has visited in Brittany or Normandy. The language is French from the Saguenay to the Ottawa, and in many remote communities English is never spoken, and is understood only by the curé or the notary. Nor is the language so impure and degenerated as many persons may naturally suppose. On the