

certain significance which every intelligent, thoughtful man of either the French or the English race cannot well overlook. In the old troublous times of Canada, before the concession by the Imperial authorities of a liberal system of popular government, the province of Quebec then known as Lower Canada was torn asunder by political conflicts, and commerce and industry were constantly paralyzed. Lord Durham who was sent out to restore order to the distracted country after the Rebellion of 1837-8, confessed in his Report that he "found two nations warring in the bosom of a 'single State; a struggle not of principles but of races'". Since those unhappy times the country has enjoyed a long period of comparative freedom from dangerous contests between the two great national elements of the population. At intervals certainly there have been political crises, and the country has been much agitated. In 1849 there was an explosion of British sentiment, which culminated in the burning of the Parliament House at Montreal, in consequence of the payment of French Canadians for losses sustained by them during the Rebellion. 22

Much political excitement also existed up to 1865 on account of the claims of the Western or English province, for additional representation in proportion to its population, then considerably greater than that of the Eastern or French section; but these difficulties were peaceably settled by the Federal Union under which each province has control of the administration of its local affairs, and a representation in Parliament which gives full consideration to population. In the absence of race conflicts, and in the presence of the new spirit of energy and enterprise brought into every sphere of political and commercial life by the Confederation, Canada has prospered and her people have been hitherto happy and contented. To the confederation the French Canadians have always given an unqualified adhesion inasmuch as it affords every necessary protection to their peculiar interests. It has practically made of Quebec a French province and at the same time enabled its representatives in the Dominion Parliament to exercise a large, sometimes a controlling influence, over the administration of the day. Under no other system of government would it be possible for them to possess the same weight they do now in the federal councils. Unfortunately sometimes for the best interests of that province, the people exhibit the impulsive, excitable temperament which is the natural heritage of a French race. They are at times very susceptible to declamatory appeals not always founded on grounds of sense or justice. If it were possible to believe that