

cultrual language

studies and more efficient instruction, is strictly prohibited.* The clergy have given every encouragement to the work of purifying the language of intrusive "anglicisms"—a movement which resembles the classical revival in Greece about a century ago; and among French-Canadian authors the church has been represented by such men as Abbé Ferland and Abbé Casgrain.

Not only have the clergy kept the people French; as colonizers they have helped to build up the nation, opening up new lands for the relief of over-crowded districts, or placing men of their own race and religion upon farms which were once occupied by Englishmen.† It was a priest, the famous curé Labelle, who gave the province its first coherent colonization policy, and took office in the government to see that it was carried out. It was a priest, everywhere called "the Apostle of the Saguenay," who made that region known and covered it with prosperous farms. Priests like Abbé Paradis have directed settlers to New Ontario and the shores of Lake Témiscamingue. The displacement of English farmers in the Eastern Townships and other parts of Quebec has been accomplished, not simply by the natural movement of population, but by the systematic planning of the clergy who are prompted by the desire to collect more tithes, as well as by religious and national feeling. They followed in the wake of the great "Exodus" to New England and, organizing parishes and schools, did what they could to preserve the French language and the national traditions.§ But no achievement redounds more to their credit than the revival of the Acadian people.‡

With the misfortunes of the Acadians everyone is familiar, whether from the poetry of Longfellow or the narrative of Parkman. It was generally believed, as late as the middle of last century, and even in the Province of Quebec, that those misfortunes had destroyed them; in fact, the story of their astonishing

*See below. Chapter IV.

†See below. Chapter II., Section 1.

§See below, Chapter II., Section 2.

‡See below, Chapter II., Section 4.