

recalling the old Normal, Provençal, and Breton. They also frequently use Anglicisms; but, in spite of the latter drawback, they have written well enough to carry off prizes from the natives of the mother country, in competition with some of their best writers. Both Louis Honoré Fréchette, the national poet, and L'Abbé R. H. Casgrain, have had that distinction. The English in Canada will seldom speak French, fearing to make blunders, while the French Canadian does not hesitate to use the Anglo-Saxon language, even if he speak it imperfectly.

Philip Gilbert Hamerton, in *The Intellectual Life*, states: "When a foreign language has been acquired (there are instances of this) in quite absolute perfection, there is almost always some loss in the native tongue. Either the native tongue is not spoken correctly, or it is not spoken with perfect ease. . . . Rare indeed are the men and women who know both languages—French and English—thoroughly." There are many French Canadians who speak their mother tongue fluently, and with absolute accuracy as to grammar and choice of expression, and yet have a fair command of the English language. Some of their political leaders, notably Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, speak alternately in French and English in the house of commons at Ottawa, and it would take a well-trained ear to tell which is his mother tongue. But one does now and then see in the French-Canadian press such Anglicisms as, *Rencontrer ses paiements* ("To meet his payments") instead of *Faire honneur à ses engagements*, and *Faire une application au parlement* ("To apply to parliament") in lieu of *Présenter une pétition*, or *une demande*, etc. For many years past the "purists," or sticklers for unalloyed French, have been making determined efforts to extirpate Anglicisms, stimulated by the active intervention of the Royal Society of Canada, and the co-operation of the press and critics generally. The effect is already perceptible in the greater purity of language and amendments of style of the writings of the *littérati* and diction of the public speakers.

The poorer *habitants* live in cabins resembling the ancestral domicile on the other side of the Atlantic, the only changes being designed to meet the conditions and necessities of the more rigorous Canadian climate. They are built of logs and clay, high-roofed, covered with shingles or thatched (*en chaume*). They are usually about twenty feet square, white-washed and of neat appearance, one apartment on the ground floor, with the attic generally used to store grain, etc., and lighted by one pane of glass at each end. Quite close to the cabin may be seen a small baking oven (*four*) with a pent-roof of boards, the stable and barn a little farther off, and a modest vegetable garden in front or at one side. There is