

In the items enumerated above, the Canadians are still far from it. They are as neat and cleanly a people as ever graced the earth. Their humblest cabins have about them a cleanliness unequalled by any people. Politeness is a second nature with them. Of the eight provinces of the Dominion, Quebec is second in practising the virtue of sobriety. In the year 1885 the convictions for different crimes in Quebec numbered 7,223; in Ontario, 20,097. In character they are sociable and peaceful, in intellect very bright and witty. The young people resemble their French ancestors in facial expression; the old develop a Celtic ruggedness very closely akin to the Irish type. Morally, the people of Quebec are far ahead of any other on this continent. This is all the more to their praise because they are of warm temperament, and might be excused for some excesses. I have here put down their virtues, leaving it to their enemies to find out their faults, if they can. I challenge any honest man to say, from actual knowledge of Quebec, that its people are in any sense degraded.

II.

Are the Canadians unprogressive?

Before answering this question, there is imposed on me the difficult task of defining what Englishmen and Americans mean by progress. Many of us do not ourselves know the exact meaning, or the strength of the various meanings which we give the word. If a nation passes from Catholicity to Atheism, many will call that progress. If an individual or a nation becomes wealthy quickly, and uses wealth in ornamenting property and introducing the latest improvements, that is called progress also. If a parent prefers inferior instruction for his child, in a religious school, to superior training in a Godless, irreligious, or indifferent institution, he is said to be unprogressive. It seems, however, to be admitted on all sides that if a nation increases in population and wealth, admits and encourages all modern inventions, has perfect freedom of the press, invests in the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, and shows a strong commercial spirit, it must be progressive. Let us examine the Canadians by this rule.

The Province of Quebec has not many physical advantages. It is most of the year under winter's control. Its territory north of the St. Lawrence consists in a narrow strip of land lying