

what progress has the question of the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure made since it has been agitated, or what progress is it likely to make hereafter, so long as the eternal obstacle, caused by the want of capital with which to redeem the Seigniorial dues, has not been removed?

I willingly leave to others the task of pointing out, with more or less impartiality or passion, the evil consequences flowing from the Seigniorial Tenure. I say, like every one, let us do away with it, and my attention is exclusively directed to the means which are proper and necessary to secure the object.

The question being considered in the light I view it myself, there will be found, in the observations which I submit to the public, neither that selfishness which perhaps still influences the inmates of some old *Manoir*, nor the invidious declamation of some of those who have pursued the abolition of the Tenure, nor, on the other hand, can they be attributed to a seeking after popularity which has actuated others. I am altogether free from the passions which have mixed themselves up with this important question.

Justice is not circumscribed by the limits of any state or country, but belongs to all. The cause of justice and progress I admire and endeavour to further as well in the land which has given me protection for the last ten years, as I did in my own sacred and unfortunate country where I defended it at the price of exile.

I have thought, Gentlemen, that I could serve this cause of progress to which we have directed our common labours, by that experience which is only acquired by the person who has intimately associated himself with the life itself of the different nations, which he becomes in consequence enabled to compare with regard to their social and political condition. I flatter myself that I offer to the equally exalted and important question