

successors of Papineau. There is this difference between them and the leader of the rebellion of 1837-8, that he aimed at converting Quebec into a French republic in which democratic ideas could have their fullest development. Bourassa wants Quebec made into an independent state with a clerical government. Papineau was no priest-man; Bourassa is. Papineau scorned to be the tool of the bishops; Bourassa is their willing agent to help on their designs. To regard him as a patriot, anxious to undo the Conquest and make his countrymen what Frontenac desired, the arbiters of North America, is to mistake what he really is—the sort of politician who, when he goes a-visiting, makes a point of being at early mass, who glorifies the priests on every possible occasion; who at high functions lends his eloquence to swell the triumph of priestly ostentation. Were he to don the soutane, he would be a second Father Hamon. Being a layman, outsiders do not place him where he belongs. Were his grandfather, Papineau, to come to life, he would class him with those politicians whom he contemptuously called grown-up altar boys—to bear the priests' robes and tinkle the little silver bell. No layman has gone so far in setting forth the claims set up by the priests—that the French language be placed on an equality with English, that the privileges of the habitants of Quebec be those of Catholics in every corner of the Dominion. He has gone so far as to declare that whatever immunities Protestants have in Quebec are due to the generosity of the Catholics. What is the Province of Quebec that Protestants who live in it are thus spoken of as foreigners? Was it not conquered by Britain and nursed by Britain for a century as a Crown colony? Why, then, should we British in Quebec be scoffed at as inferiors, as tolerated persons who have no inherent claim to the land, and who are permitted by the natives, as a favor, to live in it? No insult uttered by the Nationalists is so great. Quebec is British, and so long as it is British, every British subject who lives in it has no need to beg for favors, much less apologize for his presence. They are in Quebec because they have an equal right to that of any Nationalist, even of those who would ban the language of the Empire and trample on its laws.