

well, and have always liked them for their picturesque quaintness, their simplicity of life, their natural cheerfulness. I almost love the country they have made singular and historical by the impress, of their several centuries of occupation. I am not blind, however, to the problem they have created by their isolarity and exclusiveness, for which, however, they are not themselves responsible. It is the most serious question in Canada today.

"Having read Irish history, I have a fairly good appreciation of the Irish character, and sympathize as strongly as any Home Ruler can with the wrongs which cruel fate imposed on a brilliant and lovable race of people; but racial prejudices, the curse of our country, inherited like instincts of animals, have come down from a past in which the vendetta universally existed—mutual antagonism—the extinction of which on national grounds all civilized peoples should unite in securing. We of today are divided by strifes of various kinds, the object apparently being to perpetuate what personally we have had little or no hand in creating, and yet we, though it was no quarrel of ours, go about with the chip on our shoulder, a perpetual challenge to those who have as little personal share or responsibility in the original quarrel as ourselves. So Orangemen, Irish Nationalists and Catholics keep on embittering each other by renewed assaults on each other with no rational reason except racial or religious antipathy.

"There is no reason why French-Canadians should not forget the war between France and England which culminated in the taking of Quebec, and there is no reason why English-speaking people, who have had no share in that war, should remind the French-Canadians that they are a conquered people. It is no longer a question of French against English. The British people represent a power of which French-Canadians, for over 150 years have been subjects the same as English-Canadians. It is no longer a question whether we shall be British or French or even Canadian; but under which national form of government, and under