

In this respect the work of our late colleague, Dr. Drummond, has been most important. With the insight of a true poet he discerned, through the outer husk, the true nature of the Habitant, and interpreted the soul of one-third of our people to the other two-thirds. For one hundred and fifty years the Habitant had lived his self-contained life. Happy, contented, and good natured, he was untroubled by envy of his richer neighbours. Those few of the English people who knew the Habitant liked him, but did not stop to study him until Drummond revealed the intrinsic worth of his character, his humour, his patient courage, his endurance, his simple faith in God.

The same tendency is manifest in the unification of our history by the increased devotion of English Canadians to the study, in the original authorities, of the period of the French Regime. The organization of the Champlain Society of Toronto is only one instance, though a notable one, of the movement in Ontario. It is now recognized that in the battles on the Plains of Abraham both sides won. The English troops overran the country, but the French continued to possess it. The French lost nothing, but gained free institutions; and, by dint of long companionship, the English have come to regard the history of Old Canada as theirs also. While the French Revolution severed the French Canadians from France, the sequence of the American Revolution severed the English Canadians from the English-speaking people of the South. The two elements of our people are nearer and more to each other than to either of the nations from which they sprang, and, in the study of the history of their common country, the two races find a bond of common interest drawing them closer, year by year, as they know each other better.

The broad field of human interest thus included within the limits of literature has been, in some important sections,