

anglicising influences. The clergy were anxious to keep the peasants free from contact with the English, because the English were also Protestants. It was in this way that the peculiarly intimate alliance between clergy and people came about, destined to leave a deep impress upon the institutions of the country and upon the national literature. Patriotism and religion were joined together. To-day French-Canadians sing in their national anthem:

O Canada, terre de nos aïeux,  
 Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux.  
 Et ton bras sait porter l'épée;  
 Il sait porter la croix;  
 Ton histoire est une épopée  
 De plus brillants exploits;  
 Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,  
 Protégera nos foyers et nos lois.

What has the church done to justify her assumption of leadership? First of all, in spite of obstacles which at times threatened to wreck all her efforts, she has succeeded in giving the French language and the French race a secure position in Quebec; and that has been justification enough in the eyes of a people who do not seem to care that the intellectual and economic stimulus to be derived from free contact with the English has been sacrificed to the satisfaction of a sentimental aspiration. Many different means have been employed to bring about this result. The church has forbidden "mixed marriages"—that is, marriages between Catholics and Protestants—under pain of excommunication and, as a part of that policy, has discouraged all social intercourse between the two races.\* For her own reasons she prevented the establishment of a public library in Montreal, projected as a bond of union between French and English, and struck down the Institut Canadien where they met together.† Not only has a system of education been developed in which the French have their own schools and colleges, but attendance at the Protestant English schools, which usually provide a better course of

\*See below, Chapter VI., Section 1.

†See below, Chapter V., Section 2