

much to do with inducing the Church to give its great influence toward preserving the loyalty of Canada and in defeating the alliance which the insurgent colonies so eagerly desired. Under the Quebec Act the choice of bishops has been left to the Church without interference by the secular power—a liberty which it has never enjoyed in France or in England. The clergy have maintained with great skill their power over Quebec from that day to this. The influence of the parish system of Quebec, its extension into the other provinces of Canada which lie to the westward, its control over the legislation of the Dominion, the effect of its claim for tithes, which constitute the first lien on all the real estate owned by Catholics, the discontent with the rule of the Church introduced by the French Canadians who settle in the United States or go back after a brief sojourn here, the rapid increase of the race under the encouragement given by the Church authorities to early marriages and great families, the docile and thrifty character of the *habitant*—afford a most interesting and profitable field of study, which we cannot enter now.

It is idle to speculate as to the destiny of Canada. The writer has never been one of those who believe that material interest will in the near future bring the people of Canada into a political union with the United States. While the strength of the interests which so incline her is very great, yet they do not seem to be greater in proportion to the resisting power than they have been always in the past. Under her Constitution, as has already been shown, annexation to this country can hardly be accomplished without the consent of Great Britain or without a violent revolution. A conquest of Canada by the United States would be as repugnant to us as to her. She already feels stirring in her veins the spirit of her rising nationality. Her people are coming to feel proud of the extent of her domain, of her vast material resources. They are forgetting the language