

of her kings and statesmen, of her priests and saints, of her soldiers and sailors, clinging to many a bay and river. The picturesque banks of the St. Lawrence, from the Atlantic to the great lakes of the West, are the home of a large population whose language and customs are so many memorials of the old régime.

[Since the conquest of Canada in 1759-60, the seventy thousand people who then inhabited the country, have increased to a million and a quarter of souls, without taking into account the many thousands who have made their homes in the United States during the last thirty or forty years. This people still speak the French language, profess the Roman Catholic religion, and adhere with remarkable tenacity to the civil law and other institutions of the land of their origin. The history of the growth of this French Canadian population is exceedingly instructive. It proves very clearly the beneficial operation of the liberal system of government which Canada has now enjoyed for many years. About three centuries have elapsed since Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence and gave to France the control of an immense territory on the northern half of America. During the French régime, which lasted until 1760, the Canadians were constantly at war with the Indians or the English Colonists. At no time did they possess even a semblance of the representative institutions always enjoyed by the colonies of Great Britain in America. The rule of the king was as arbitrary in Canada as in France. Even a town meeting for ordinary municipal purposes was forbidden as at entire variance with the principles of government laid down by the King and his ministers. Trade slumbered in the absence of capital and enterprise, and the only signs of comfort or wealth were found in the towns of Montreal and Quebec, or in a few manor houses of the Seigniors who inherited small fortunes from Old France, or managed their large possessions with some skill and energy. The educational facilities of the people were such as would be given by the institutions controlled by the priests and sisters of the associations, who have always devoted themselves with great assiduity and faithfulness to the mental and