

Queen's University Journal.

VOL. XXVIII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, NOV. 23, 1900.

No. 3.

Queen's University Journal.

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University
in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers during
the Academic Year.

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12 o'clock.

All literary communications should be addressed to the
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Advertising rates, \$1.00 per inch per issue, or \$8.00 per inch
per annum.

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HOWEVER hopeful one may
be of the ultimate destiny of
this country, the results of
the general elections em-
phasize some features in our
national life which are a con-
stant source of danger.

It has been a point of honour with most of
our public men of the better sort, to deliberately
shut their eyes to the central fact of Cana-
dian national life, upon which Lord Durham's
report so specifically put its finger more than
half a century ago, after a previous half-cen-
tury of strenuous but vain effort to starve the

fact to death by deliberately ignoring it.
Says Lord Durham : "I expected to see a con-
test between a government and a people; I
found two nations warring in the bosom of a
single state; I found a struggle, not of princi-
ples, but of races."

It is futile to discuss the question as to
whether the French-Canadian or the English-
Canadian is the more devoted to the good of
the country in which he lives; whether Mr.
Bourassa or Mr. Clarke Wallace is the more
loyal to Canada and her interests. The real
question is, what is the nature of the national
ideal to which such men are loyal? While it
is true that, for a democratic state, no single
definition can be given of the national ideal,
yet there are certain broad characteristics
which designate it for the time. Now that
this Canadian ideal is obviously not the same
for the French-Canadian and the English-
Canadian, a study of the past and present of
our country proves. But so completely are
the French and English elements shut off
from each other's point of view, that, under
normal circumstances, each holds his own ideas
without disturbing those of the other and thus
there appears to be harmony between them.

When, however, something touching the
fundamental national life of the country
comes up for decision, involving a common
opinion and united action, the latent antagon-
ism of the two ideals is suddenly revealed, and
appears to the unthinking man of either race
as a vicious perversity on the part of the other,
calculated to frustrate the national welfare.
Hence the free indulgence in accusations of
disloyalty.