

arms from Quebec to the Ohio, and there joined hands with its friends and colleagues, who reaching upwards from New Orleans on the Gulf of Mexico, established with them an imperial domain, by occupation and by conquest, from the mouth of the Mississippi to the mouth of the St. Lawrence. No other nation has accomplished that feat. What added to its magnitude was the circumstance, that the British colonies thought they were invested by a world of Catholic Frenchmen; and when, by dint of a union forced upon them through the peril of their situation, and by the vast resources which their abject appeals to Great Britain secured for them, they had infested the waters of the St. Lawrence and captured Quebec, they discovered that, while they themselves were millions, these conquerors of the western world were in numbers, all told, men, women and children, no more than eighty thousand souls.

Practical men may scout the force of ideas and fall back on those dollars and cents, which somehow rule the world. But never was the force of an idea better justified than when military chivalry and a Christian zeal for souls united in the early French Canadian to overrun a continent and to shed heroic blood for the salvation and regeneration of the savage Indian, from the Falls of the Mohawk to the remote seas of Lake Huron and Lake Superior, while the practical men, who had never known the force of a Christian idea, sat down shivering at the thought of Canadian and Indian alike, along the banks of the Hudson, on the edge of their inlet of Massachusetts Bay, down by the Delaware and on the Chesapeake; and the utmost effort of their religious zeal and apostolic prowess reached out only so far as a comfortable parson's pleasant visit to neighboring Indians, or else translated the Bible and offered to read it to them, within a stone's throw of Boston.