

still exists a remnant of half-breeds allied to them by ties of a common descent and common religion. But so far they do not show any desire to settle the new territories where, from all appearances, the British speaking people will entirely prevail. Taking then all these facts into consideration, the intense spirit of nationalism that animates the mass of French Canadians, the rigidity with which they cling to their language and institutions, their indisposition to take up English customs, their tendency to keep themselves distinct in society, and their increasing numbers, we cannot fail to see the importance of the influence they must exercise for a long time to come over the destinies of Canada. It would be idle to say that there is not now and then evidence of antagonism between the two races. From time to time attempts are made to stimulate this antagonism to a perilous degree. Attacks ^{have been} ~~are~~ even made upon the tithe system and other institutions of French Canada which rest on the foundation of solemn treaties and instruments granted to the province in the course of a century and a quarter. Such an agitation must be unwise, inasmuch as it is not for the English-speaking people in other provinces to attack institutions which do not affect themselves, and from which the French Canadian, who are directly interested, do not show any desire to be released.

The future unity and stability of the Canadian Confederation depends on the fact that there is one great force which is ever operating among all nationalities to preserve the body politic, and that is, as Professor Seeley points out, *common interest*. Whilst Lower Canada holds the portals of the great avenue of communication between the Old World and the West, she is indispensable to the Union, and no other province can afford to treat her with injustice. Were the French province to-morrow to leave the Confederation, it would at once be dissolved, and the result would be fatal to the aspirations of those who are working to build up a new nationality to the north of the United States, in close connection with the parent State. One province after the other would find itself in the ranks of the American States, and Quebec itself would eventually be absorbed—a result fatal to the perpetuation of the language and institutions to which its people have always clung with such tenacity. It would indeed be an unhappy

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