

was lost, and then generously transferring to the latter his entire loyalty, made use, during the terrible days of 1775, of his sacred influence, to keep French Canada faithful to the new masters? And yet, God knows how great must have been the temptation for the sons of France in America to unite their destiny with that of those sons of Britain, less scrupulous, less loyal than they — and we might add less vilified and more excusable for a real and effective revolt than we of to-day are for a fanciful disloyalty? If the Catholic envoys of the United States, if the warm appeals of those French officers serving in the cause of American Independence, could not overcome the resistance of the Canadian people, it is because the grand voice of the head of the Church in Quebec, invoking the sacred principle of respect due to the existing authority, and branding as *rebels* all who allowed themselves to be carried away, raised an unsurmountable barrier to the idea of revolution. And England, already deprived of the richest portion of her heritage in America, owed to a French Bishop the preservation of this Canadian land — now one of the brightest gems in her imperial crown.

« What could I not say — were it not that I wish to be brief — about a Mgr. Denaut, whose devotedness to England was expressed in deeds of heroic generosity, and of a Mgr. Plessis, recalling to the faithful of his diocese, in 1807, «that it is impossible to be a good Christian without first being a loyal and faithful subject,» and «that they would be unworthy of the name of Catholics and of Canadians, if they showed disloyalty, or even indifference when it is a question of fulfilling their duties as subjects devoted to the interests of their sovereign, or in the defence of the country.» It was this illustrious prelate, who, in 1812, devoted his whole being and succeeded in maintaining the Canadians faithful to their British allegiance. The