

polished churchman to unite himself with the expedition, "and assist the commissioners in such things as they might think useful." The object of this, although not entered on the journals of congress or expressed in any formal preamble to the resolutions, is perfectly evident. In the debates on the Canada bill, in 1774, we are informed that there were one hundred and fifty thousand Catholics, and only three hundred and sixty Protestants within the government of the province of Quebec, and it was therefore believed that one of the surest means of prompt success with such a mass of Romanists, was to show them, by influential men of their own creed, that their brethren, over the borders, were up in arms and ready to do battle in defence of religious and political liberty. Three of these representatives came from a province originally founded by tolerant Catholics, who had received a tolerant charter even from a bigoted king.

It is a singular thing that Dr. Franklin, who now, at the advanced age of seventy, was sent on this wild and fatiguing journey to wrest Canada from England or neutralize it, had been one of the first seventeen years before, to urge its conquest upon the mother country. When he was in London in 1759, although he had no interviews with the minister, his conversation on American affairs was always respectfully heeded by men in power, and "it has been said on good authority," declares Mr. Sparks, "that the expedition against Canada, and its consequences in the victory of Wolfe at Quebec and the conquest of that country, may be chiefly ascribed to Franklin. He disapproved the policy, by which the ministry had hitherto been guided, of carrying on the war against the French in the heart of Germany, where, if successful, it would end in no real gain to the British Nation, and no essential loss to the enemy. In all companies, and on all occasions, he urged the reduction of Canada as an object of the utmost importance. It would inflict a blow upon the French power in America, from which it could never