

This may not please the leader of the Opposition, but it could not but please an old Tory, like the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy). Speaking of the loyalty of the French Canadians at the time of the American Revolution, Sir Charles Dilke said :

"Curiously enough, the only moments at which we were ever popular in Lower Canada, until we gave her free institutions, were the moments when the Americans were trying to expel us."

These few lines must be significant to those who believe that because we speak a foreign language we cannot be loyal to the Crown and true supporters of the British nation. I will not say, true as it may be, that Canada would have been American except for the assistance given by the French Canadians at the time of the American Rebellion, but as a loyal Britisher, I would say, with Sir Charles Dilke: we have been able to preserve our supremacy in North America with the approval and assistance of the French Canadians, and "curiously enough the only moment at which we were ever popular in Lower Canada, until we gave her free institutions, were the moments when the Americans were trying to expel us." Mr. Speaker, I claim for our people, as I read it in the opuscules of a late friend, Oscar Dunn, that "the first man who spoke of responsible government in this country was a French Canadian, Pierre Bedard, and the one who contributed the most to establish it was another French Canadian, Lafontaine. Our nationality had the honor to furnish the statesman who introduced British liberties into this country. It was the only revenge we drew from our conquerors." I do not speak here as a French Canadian; I speak as a Canadian. The hon. member for North Simcoe has said, that, in order to judge of the nationality of a man, you must ascertain the language he speaks; that a German subject speaking another language can hardly be a full German; that a man who speaks French as his mother tongue, even if he knew and could speak English, cannot be really and truly a British sub-

ject. But we claim to be Canadians, and although we may speak in French or English we are really not English or French, but we are truly Canadians, and we intend to remain such. I heartily endorse the sentiments of that eloquent and fervent apostle of Canadian nationality, Principal Grant, when, speaking before St. Andrew's Society, in Montreal he said :

"The Scotch are but one nationality in Canada, and not the first. That place belongs to the French Canadians; a sacred obligation is imposed upon the Canadian races upon ours. We ought to be, the one more than Scotch, and together more than French, we ought to be Canadians. There can be but one Canadian nation, and all the races which have chosen the sky of Canada as their own right to contribute to the building up and the consolidating of this nation. Every other dream is but a folly and every effort to realise it is but treason. And against treason all Canadians must unite, to combat and chastise it."

Sir, if the hon. gentleman intends to carry out his purpose, interpreted as it must be by the preamble of this Bill and by the speech which accompanied its first reading, if the hon. gentleman wants to go to the end of his programme, if he really intends to do as he has stated in this House and outside this House he intends to do, I can only tell him this, that if he wants to destroy and efface the French language from the Dominion of Canada he should begin higher up and remove its use from the highest order of chivalry in England; he should efface it from the arms of England; if he thinks in speaking French we are disloyal to our beloved Sovereign, Her Majesty the Queen, he must have forgotten the words "*Hon soit qui mal y pense*." If he wants to destroy French I answer him, in company with all my fellow-countrymen and all true British subjects in this Dominion: Sir, you shall not touch that language; you cannot efface it. We keep it with our religion, as a gift we owe to Divine Providence and to the kind liberality of Our beloved Sovereign. And whenever it is attempted to deprive us of that sacred deposit, we shall not despair as long as we read on the Royal Arms of England: "*Dieu et mon Droit*."