

hand, nearly every French-Canadian of public standing can in and out of Parliament address himself intelligibly and nearly always eloquently to an audience in English. It is recorded that in the great debate on Confederation in the Parliament of Old Canada in 1865, the French members all spoke in English because the English members could not understand French, much less speak it. With what greater effect could the English members have appealed to the French members had they been able in a portion of the remarks, at least, to have spoken French with that degree of fluency and purity that Dorion and Cartier, for instance, spoke English? We speak of the French-Canadians refusing to speak English and their desire to remain apart. Have we, as English-speaking Canadians, searched our own souls on a similar count? Do we realize that reciprocity in language is as much an essential of free and friendly intercourse as that in commerce it is necessary to buy as well as sell to do business? Apart altogether from what Quebec may choose to do, I believe that French should as far as possible be taught in every school in Canada. There is nothing that will bring two races together more completely than the study of each other's literature and that personal and intimate knowledge of each other obtained only through the vehicle of language. More especially is it desirable that the two languages should be taught alongside of each other and be generally understood, when we are in such close alliance with the great nation of France, with whose people business relations will be greatly extended after the war. The French language was, and still is to a considerable extent, the diplomatic language of Europe. That fact did not make the courts of Europe one whit more French in leaning and as to the ultimate survival or dominancy of either language in Canada we need not worry. We must not in this almost critical stage in the history of Confederation lay the burden of blame all on one side. We have not on either side in the past studied, nor indeed have we been at all inclined to study, the point of view of the other and have thus drifted apart in sympathy and in ideals.