

of M. Mousseau, now a Superior Court Judge. If M. Mercier be guilty his accomplices cannot be innocent, and the men who furnished the alleged bribe, and who are now pursuing with vengeance the man whom they say they induced to accept it, showed by parting with their money their fear that their leader was in danger of disqualification. In making the charge, they publish their own guilt and cover with suspicion the friend whom they profess to be most anxious to protect. That he received \$5,000 M. Mercier admits; but he adds that he disbursed \$2,150 of the amount, and retained the rest for services in conducting the case, and not for having abandoned the demand for disqualification. Judge Torrence, M. Mercier swears, had intimated that the demand for disqualification ought to be abandoned; some priests had asked M. Mercier to act upon the merciful view of the case, and not to forget that some of his own friends might before long find themselves in the same box; and, finally, "the party," on consultation, concluded that it was not advisable to press for disqualification. Against this defence of M. Mercier, M. Clement Arthur Dansereau, who supplied the funds, swore that he only agreed to give the money "provided the demand for disqualification was withdrawn." But M. Dansereau did not make the arrangement with M. Mercier personally. M. David, a personal friend both of M. Mercier and M. Mosseau, acted as intermediary, and his evidence has the appearance of being given with frankness and without bias. During the negotiations M. David remarked that since M. Mercier felt certain of being able to beat M. Mosseau at the polls in Jacques Cartier, he had everything to gain, in a pecuniary point of view, by abandoning the attempt at disqualification. He placed before M. Mercier the prospect of a Coalition Government, in which the Opposition Chief would be an acceptable member; at the same time assuring him that if he procured the disqualification of M. Mosseau the door to such a union would be closed; finally, he asked that no further attempt at disqualification be made, and he left M. Mercier with the assurance that the Conservatives would pay the costs. M. Mosseau, in view of the evidence that had been produced, was willing that the seat should be vacated. When asked whether the payment of the \$5,000 had the abandonment of disqualification for its object, M. David replied: "I think that the reasons given by me determined the abandonment of the proceedings for disqualification. At the same time this abandonment would not have taken place without the payment of a certain sum." The projected coalition failed, and the party fight was renewed with increased bitterness. Threats were made that M. Mercier would be called to account for his conduct in connection with the \$3,850 which he retained, and he, to get the start of his pursuers, brought counter charges against M. Mosseau in the Legislature which a Royal Commission was thereupon appointed to investigate. No sooner had this Commission closed its labours than a second Commission met to investigate the Jacques Cartier scandal. M. Mercier appears to have received for his services in connection with this election trial an unusually large sum, and it is difficult to conceive that the Conservatives would have agreed to pay more than the taxing-master would have allowed, unless they believed it would bring them some special advantage which they would not otherwise have been able to obtain. But having paid the money, and, as they admit, got the advantage, silence was their only refuge, since they could not hope to convict M. Mercier of taking a bribe without confessing themselves guilty of having paid it. But the confession is evidence against themselves, whatever may be thought of M. Mercier's defence.

ONCE more some enthusiastic Frenchmen are dreaming of making France a colonizing nation. The *Société Française de Colonization* has taken the work in hand. M. Reclus would like to see "history changed" by an emigration from Brittany that would double the French population of Canada. But unfortunately these Bretons prefer to end their migration in Paris, whither 35,000 of them are said to have gone in the last three years. A thousand Bretons, says M. Onézime Reclus, on the banks of the St. Lawrence become 250,000 in the course of two centuries; but if 1,000 Frenchmen were sent to La Plata, there would not, at the end of two centuries, be left a single Frenchman to represent them; all trace and recollection of their origin would be obliterated, and their very names would be lost. Greatly does this consideration encourage M. Reclus in his desire to "change history" by doubling the number of French in Canada. M. About, who is president of the Paris committee of this new French colonization society, favours the establishment of French emigrants outside the colonies of Algeria and New Caledonia. Tonquin demands immediate attention. If the 150,000 Frenchmen in the Argentine Republic are already half "castillionized," and if they remain French only during a single generation, the reasons are that their children, in the absence of French schools, learn the Spanish language and marry the

Mijas de pais. In Canada, on the contrary, M. Reclus finds the French remaining apart, and doubling every twenty-five years at most; and he is not sure that they will not, at some future day, reconquer America. That the French ever did conquer America, as a whole, is a somewhat startling avowal. But M. Reclus has fallen into the order of ideas which is becoming fashionable with the French race on both sides the Atlantic; and the increasing frequency with which these ideas find expression is a sign of the times.

THE Acadians, who recently held their second national convention at Miscouche, Nova Scotia, have found it necessary for their salvation as a race to set up a distinct flag and adopt a national air. The distinctive mark of their nationality is to be a lone star, on a blue ground, and their national air is to be the Gregorian *Maris Stella*, set to French words. This flag, we are told, is not new, though it has long been out of use, having been unfurled to the breeze on the 15th of August for the first time since 1713. We were not aware that the Acadians paid so much attention to the Treaty of Utrecht as the furling of their flag implies, and if they did put it out of sight they did so only for appearance sake, for most of them refused to become British subjects, or leave the country, in accordance with the terms of that instrument. They insisted on being neutrals, in a conquered country; they would not take the oath of allegiance without conditions and reservations, which would have left them at liberty in case of war to avoid the duties of citizenship. Deportation with all its regrettable concomitants ended the unseemly wrangle which embittered the lives of a whole generation of English colonists, and was a constant source of peril to the British Government. The present attitude of the Acadians shows that the old leaven has not lost all its force.

FRENCH Canadian conventions are the order of the day. The expatriated cousins of the Quebec French, like the Acadians, followed the example set at Montreal, and held their Convention at Albany. In the country of their adoption these emigrants wish to live as a people apart from the rest of the population: to be a nation within a nation. In New England they flatter themselves that their vote, in the presidential election, has already become important enough to be worth looking after. But it does happen that the children of the first generation of emigrants lose the use of the language of their parents, and that French names are replaced by an English translation. Dr. Archambault, who came from Rhode Island to the Montreal congress, had a sad tale to tell. He found that the young Canadians, who go to American schools, fall into the habit of speaking English among themselves; they read American journals and American literature exclusively; they become rapidly Americanized, and what glimpses they get of the country of their fathers they get through American spectacles; the successful ones among them learn to prefer the company of Americans to that of their own countrymen. The Albany Convention constructed a programme which is full of contradictions: it recommends at once naturalization and a separate flag, separate French schools and an exclusive French-Canadian press. The more exclusive these immigrants make themselves the more obnoxious will they become to the Americans, by whom they are regarded as "The Chinese of the East." The cheaper labour which they take with them causes them to be regarded by their fellow-workmen with jealousy not unmingled with contempt. Their absorption into the great family of the Americans will depend upon their relative numbers; and it remains to be seen whether a new Louisiana can be established on the soil of New England.

FROM some of his ancient compatriots, Louis Riel, the hero of the Red River Rebellion, has received an invitation to return to the country. Whether the invitation was prompted by the person most interested is at present a matter of doubt. Riel's outlawry is at an end, the term of his banishment has expired, and he is at liberty to return. Sometime this month he will respond to the invitation of his friends, and personally appear once more in Manitoba. Riel, whatever might be his inclinations, has ceased to be dangerous. The discredited chief of a defeated rebellion cannot again become a leader of men. Since the day when Riel found himself a fugitive rebel chief, the state of things in Manitoba and the North-West has completely changed. Infinitely greater progress has been made than was made in Lower Canada during the two centuries that followed the discovery of Jacques Cartier. A new order of things has arisen. Riel will find himself in a position not dissimilar to that in which Papineau was placed after his return from France, whither he went after the collapse of the rebellion in Lower Canada. He may have a small circle of admirers; but he will never be the chief of a party likely ever to be strong enough to grasp the reins of government. Riel, in advance of his