

its warmth and vitality over the people of its race and tongue in the Channel, Savoy, Switzerland, and Belgium, though its political supremacy be not recognized. This influence ceases not to spread among the inhabitants of the banks of the St. Lawrence, now numbering nearly a million. Situated at the north of the American continent, what harm can they do to British dominion or to that of the vast republic of the United States? On the contrary, past experience teaches us that too populous nations cannot long retain their character and power, and that a balance of power and a moderate rivalry are as salutary as exercise and liberty are to individuals. European nations have attained the highest degree of civilization; and this may be ascribed, in part at all events, to the rivalry which animates them, and the unanimity with which they are constantly prompted to make great efforts to excel in the march of mind and in the not less noble advance of military spirit.

Ancient history shows us that the enthrallment of the ancient world under the Romish yoke marked the epoch of her decadence; and that human devices cannot exceed certain limits without ceasing to march on to perfection. These limits are indicated by the natural power and skill of man.

Already the immense territory of the United States has become a cause of rivalry and discord amongst its citizens, whose ideas and interests vary with the latitude of the country. It would seem that the government has not the skill and foresight necessary to meet all the necessities and desires from one end to the other of this too great republic. Passion has been aroused to such an extent, that a desperate warfare springs up in the midst of a people who appeared to enjoy the greatest concord; and we may say now, that, sooner or later, the young republic will dissolve, to form several nations, whose territory and inhabitants will be upon such a basis as to assure to each a strong and enlightened government.

In view of this future, French-Canadians should defend and preserve their laws and nationality, since thus they contribute to their own happiness and honor, not only in aiding the adoption in America of a system which maintains Europe at the head of civilization, but in preserving its inhabitants from that lamentable decadence which is the result of a too vast population, as in Asia, who become ungovernable by reason of their number and lack of force, and repose in a species of material barbarism, more sordid than the savage barbarity which once subsisted in the New World.

THE END.