

ing in Canada they immediately set up their own institutions. They were self-reliant and resourceful. Canada was then covered with dense forests which were infested with wild animals and Indians. The French priests heroically penetrated these trackless woods as far west as the Mississippi basin, and even beyond; devotedly braving dangers of every form; even death at the hands of relentless and inhuman tribes of Indians—especially the Iroquois. While their priests gave their blood in the pursuit of their sacred calling, the energetic colonist cleared the land of timber, and slowly, at great odds, forged ahead to the possession of good farms and comfortable homes.

It must ever be borne in mind, that these daring pioneers jealously guarded their rights from the encroachments of European French officials who came out to instruct or rule them. One of the most prominent officers of Louis complained that the colonial militiamen refused to serve under any but their own officers. The French Canadians were no longer Europeans, indeed, but Canadians. After the surrender of Montreal to General Murray, at the close of the Seven Years' War, Canada was ceded to Britain. Murray endeared himself to the French by his humane and just consideration of their claims. When the United States army under Montgomery invaded Canada during the Revolutionary War the French Canadians drove them out; and remained loyal to the country that had so generously treated them. Again in 1812-1814, they showed their old time courage and patriotism, in helping to hurl the foreign army from our soil.

They have always remained true to Britain, in gratitude for her kind treatment of them. Yet the interests of the people of the Lower Province have not always been safe-guarded. A solemn promise had been given by Gen. Murray in behalf of the British Government, to respect their custom; to grant them the practice of their own language and religion. But they, as well as the people of Upper Canada, were driven to desperation by the iniquitous conduct of British officials, and the system of the family compact. A number protested against the encroachment of their liberties with their blood, under Papineau; as did the British Canadians under Mackenzie at York. This was only following out the stern precedents set by every patriot in Britain since the days of King John; and ill-timed and lamented as the occurrence was, yet it brought relief through Lord Durham's famous report.

These few words will give a slight idea of the development of Mr. Bourassa's speech. He made us satisfied to be cemented with a people of such valour and determination; and inspired by so worthy ideals of true citizenship. He closed by making a few remarks on Mr. Chamberlain's plans to federate the Empire by means of external bonds. He claimed that the French Canadians were better qualified to arrive at a proper solution of the problem, since they were less influenced by desires of the heart arising out of affection to the motherland. His main contentions were that the time had not arrived to reverse the process of safeguarding and protecting purely Canadian interests which has resulted in our virtual independence; that it should shame the Cana-