

duration of an empire.' In his opinion 'the chief forces which hold a community together, and cause it to constitute one state, are three,—*common nationality, common religion, and common interest.*' Two of these three forces are certainly wanting in Canada. The people of one large province speak the French language, cling to the civil law and other institutions of France, and profess the Roman Catholic religion. It is true that this nationality is as yet in a minority; but there is conclusive evidence that it is a powerful minority, which does not show any sign of deteriorating strength, but rather of expansion. The province of Quebec is more thoroughly French Canadian than it has been for half a century and more. The French element has in a great measure crowded out the English-speaking people in places like Quebec, and it is only the superior energy and business capacity of the latter that enable them to hold their own even in Montreal, whose natural situation at the head of ocean navigation, and natural relations to the Great Lakes and the West must always make it an important commercial emporium, attracting the enterprise and capacity of all nationalities. In certain towns and districts where the English were dominant a few years ago, the French Canadians are now in the majority. The Eastern townships were until recently exclusively English and Protestant, but the tide of French population has already flowed into these districts. We see a similar expansion in the direction of the province of Ontario. A large proportion of the city of Ottawa is French Canadian, and it was only the other day that the Dominion Government acknowledged the claims of the growing French population of Ontario to representation in the Senate. There is not at present that steady flow of French Canadians into the manufacturing towns of the United States which for years relieved Canada of the surplus of a population whose natural increase is very great. The efforts of the leaders of public opinion in Quebec are now being directed towards keeping their people at home, and offering inducements to their expatriated compatriots to return. As a matter of fact, then, the French Canadian people are actually increasing in numbers, and should they overcome their natural indisposition to settle in a new country, they would soon over-run the North-West, where there