

be dominated or directed by a majority, however numerous, moral, sturdy and intellectual, composed of men constitutionally averse from any "deep evolution"; men who shrink from "new obligations" or "new imperial burdens," who recognise no duty to the Empire of which they acknowledge themselves a part, whose sight will not carry beyond their own frontier, and whose chief desire is to be left as they are? And if this be possible, then what will be the future of the greatest of our partners in the Commonwealth, under the guidance of a people whose political aspirations seem nearer to those of the Far East than any known to the nations of Europe or America?

Let us say at once that we are looking at these questions purely as questions of practicability; we find no fault with the French-Canadian for his strong conservatism, still less for his contentment and lack of fierce commercial appetite. Nations, like individuals, have every right to their own temperament and their own way of life; but in the struggle for existence nations, even more than individuals, are chosen for survival or extinction by the law of fitness, of adaptation, of evolution. Mr. Bourassa claims for his countrymen that they should be left undisturbed in their reliance "upon Providence and the development of outside causes"; but when he interprets this to mean that they may refuse to undertake obligations because they are "new," or to follow an evolution because it is "deep," he seems to be forgetting that such refusals are forbidden by a voice stronger than any which ever spoke in English. He is under no illusion as to the past history of his race:

No doubt the French-Canadians occupy to-day a most enviable position: they enjoy religious and national rights such as are possessed by very few minorities in any country. But it must be remembered that those rights were but gradually won, and after years of painful struggles.

Evolution, then, there has been, and not only "development of outside causes," but a vigorous response to it; that, however, is over; the word is now, "thus far and no farther"; finality,