

the words "English Subjects," which have been employed to designate Canadians born since the conquest, are deficient in accuracy. Correctly speaking, our Country belongs to the British Empire. In this sense we are British Subjects as are the Scots, the Inhabitants of the Isles of *Normandy*, and those of other possessions annexed to the Empire, whether before or since the Union of the two Kingdoms, to whom the name of English cannot be applied.

Your Committee regret that on this occasion an event should have been cited which is as foreign to the question as in fact it is to the two generations which in this Country have succeeded that which witnessed the Conquest. That event could not annihilate, with respect to Canadians born since that epoch, their right to the use of the Language which they speak and in which their Laws are written. The principles of the Law of nations recognized and professed by all civilized nations, would be in formal opposition to that opinion. Doubtless it is not the Government of an Empire which holds so elevated a rank in the scale of European Civilisation, which could disavow the principles of that Law by which *Victory leaves to the vanquished, besides mere Life, these main objects, Liberty, Laws and Religion*. Were they, after all, susceptible of being called in question, the most formal Acts of that very Government, secure to the Canadians their full and complete preservation. Accuracy has been carried to the extent of a formal Declaration that they *should retain their Property and Possessions, together with all Customs and Usages relative thereto, and all other their Civil Rights; and that in all matters of controversy relative to Property and Civil Rights, recourse should be had to the Laws of the Country as the Rule for the Decision of the same, and that all Causes before the Courts of Justice respecting such Property and Rights should be determined agreeably to the Laws and Customs of the Country*.