

of English words, it does not follow that we were right. Quite the contrary, and we shall pay much more dearly than our ancient mother country for our imprudence in not sufficiently protecting our language. The more so because we have not only borrowed words from the English language, but expressions and figures not in the genius of our language. Since the days of Tardivel, anglicism has not ceased to be the enemy that must be fought stubbornly. But this enemy, be it ever so insinuating, has not yet succeeded in transforming the ancestral tongue into a new language which, near or far, is allied to patois, and English writers have no right to judge our language from the jargon the poet Drummond puts in the mouth of his "Habitant". And, after all, why does one not realize that this "habitant", devoid of instruction, endeavors merely to speak a language not his own, and tortures his mind trying to make himself understood by the Englishmen or the Americans with whom he enters into conversation! There is, perhaps, more malice than one thinks in the work of Drummond. But there are men on whose heads irony glances like water on a duck's back. Decidedly, it is a fortitude to feel one's self above ridicule! It could not be otherwise but that our idiom felt the influence of the English language, and it is marvelous to find that it could have so energetically resisted the surrounding forces. For English is not only the language of a large portion of the Canadian population, it is also that of the mother country, it is the language of our powerful neighbours to the South, it is the language of industry, of commerce and of finance, it is the language of Parliament such as we have had for over a century, and it has been the language of the Administration for a long time. Since we have, ourselves, submitted to English and, above all, to American ideas and habits, how could our language have escaped this influence? Rémy de Gourmont, whose high ability on the subject of Philology is well known, wrote somewhere in his "*Esthétique de la langue française*": "It is a well known fact that the french language of Canada has suffered from english influence. This reciprocating penetration is much less