

(FROM ST. JOHN GLOBE, MARCH 19TH, 1896.)

Rev. Father Doucet, of Shippegan, read before the students of the University of New Brunswick and their friends on Wednesday evening a very interesting paper on "The Dual Languages in Canada: their Advantages and Disadvantages." The reverend gentleman treated the subject in a thoroughly academic spirit. He pointed out that in many European nations two, three, and, in some cases, several languages were used and that, therefore, one language was not essential to national unity, although dual languages were regarded as a disadvantage by many persons from this standpoint. He argued upon the commercial, literary and social advantages to a country of having at its command a great commercial language like that of England, and a great diplomatic language like that of France, and he dwelt upon the power the use of these two languages gave those who possessed them. That the French of this country should be allowed the liberty of using their own tongue was, he held, a simple act of justice to a true and loyal people, and, of course, without restrictions of any kind time would settle all the difficulties of the situation through the survival of the fittest. The address was in every respect a scholarly one, showing a wide scope of information and reading, and was as moderate in tone as it was reasonable in argument. A discussion followed, which was participated in by Professors Davidson and Stockley, and Messrs. Jones, Kierstead, and Jordan of the University students, and by Rev. William O'Leary, to which Mr. J. V. Ellis, who occupied the chair, added some observations. Rev. Mr. Doucet closed the discussion in a few observations, using for his purpose the French language. On motion of Mr. Z. Everett, who gave an instance from his own experience of the advantages to be derived from knowing something of two languages, a hearty vote of thanks passed to the reverend lecturer. It was stated that Mr. Doucet not only travelled from Bathurst to Fredericton via St. John by rail to deliver the lecture, but that his journey also included a sleigh drive of over sixty miles, from Shippegan to Bathurst. The students showed their appreciation of the lecturer's courtesy and ability by hearty cheers and by giving him the college cries with three times three. The President of the University, Dr. Harrison, occupied a seat upon the platform, and there were several citizens of Fredericton in the audience.