

French-Canadians stood alone, and had to resist, from the American side, the most serious temptation that had ever assailed them.

« The temptation was such as is not to be found in the entire history of the world. The Americans had gone to France for General Lafayette, the same one who unfolded, at the frontier that bounds us to the South, the flag of my race, the flag beneath whose folds we were born, as he thus appealed to my fellow-countrymen : « Why do you not return to your old flag ? After all, that flag which they call the *Union Jack*, or the *Royal Standard* of England, you have never beheld upon your shores. I, Lafayette, speaking in the name of your neighbors, of that people now at my side, I represent liberty, equality and fraternity. »

« Then another voice was heard ; it addressed the French-Canadian troops. It was the voice of the good Bishop of Quebec. The worthy prelate stood in front of the ranks of soldiers and spoke to them in these words : « That flag may tempt you ; the laws of nature may also tempt you ; you could take refuge under the folds of that flag ; but, do not forget one thing, that only yesterday you swore fidelity to the flag that must be the flag of this country. If you are to deny your allegiance to that flag, from this day Divine Providence will deny you those blessings that you might rightfully expect from that source. »

« That appeal was heard, and the French-Canadians shouldered their muskets and drove before them the soldiers of Benedict Arnold and Montgomery. (Applause.)

« I have no desire to retard this House in its labors ; but, allow me to say that there are no more loyal subjects of Her Majesty, in all the country, than the French-Canadians.

« Sons of my race are to-day fighting under the British flag in South Africa. I am proud of the fact, although I