

"Canada during French occupation."



SLIGHT knowledge of Canadian history will inform us that the first colonists in Canada were French, and that those early pioneers marked their coming with much cost of life and suffering. It is with deep sympathy that we read of the early Indian wars and massacres; the bitter famines and relentless privations endured by the settlers along the banks of the St. Lawrence; nor must we forget the heroism displayed by those peasants in the fair fields of Acadia, so vividly described by Longfellow in that beautiful poem, "Evangeline." Thus the thousands of English-speaking people who have come to Canada in later years are greatly indebted to the French-Canadian race for the peace and prosperity which they now enjoy, and for which the sacrifice and achievements of their forefathers have no parallel.

It is on this account that the great intellects of the day are busying themselves preaching national unity. The population of Canada is composed of two distinct nationalities, the English and the French; and if Canada ever hopes to be numbered among the great nations of the world, her subjects must form one united whole; but something is still lacking at times in cordiality or mutual appreciation between these two renowned races. In 1897 Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out the necessity of unity. He said, "if we are ever to make a nation of Canada, if we are ever to solve successfully any of these difficulties that may arise, we can only solve them by mutual concession and reciprocal good-will."

The early history of Canada leads us back to the time when Jacques Cartier landed on Canadian soil, in the year 1535 A.D. The accounts of this first voyage were most disastrous, and out of some seventy men only a few returned to France. One of the three vessels which formed the company of explorers had to be abandoned, and the unsuitable equipment for the severe cold, together with scurvy, which spread among the crew, played havoc with human life. In 1541 Cartier again sailed for Canada and landed at Cape Rouge, this time being equally unfortunate. The Indians became hostile, and together with starvation, constant attacks from these warlike tribes, most extreme exposure to the cold, and hardships of all kinds, he abandoned the fort and sailed for home. The next spring M. de Roberval came