

great upheaval started its work of destruction in our former Mother Country, in 1789, my ancestors were British subjects and had ceased to be Frenchmen for nearly thirty years. They were, as we are to-day, staunchly Roman Catholic. They were scandalized when the September massacres took place, and they could not forgive the demons who assassinated priests in the detention convents during the French Revolution. They shivered with indignation when they learned of the Terreur under Robespierre, the execution of Louis XVI and the activities of the guillotine. They looked upon the Jacobins, Bonaparte, Talleyrand and Fouché as the embodiment of crime, bandits who were persecuting honest people, bleeding France to death and keeping Europe in a continuous turmoil. The habitants thanked Providence that they were living safely in a British Country where they could practice their religion with freedom and teach it to their children in their own language.

Eight generations of French Canadians have been born in Canada since 1763. We are French from a racial standpoint but not from that of nationality, temperament and aspirations. We speak French, but we do not wish to impose that language on other people. English is taught in all our schools. We love France and admire her literature, but we have a greater love for our own country, and we also admire English literature and British culture. We are Britishers just as much as if we were born in the British Isles.

When the habitants became British subjects they soon understood that if they expected to survive they had better use their