

significant words the City of Quebec passed over from the government of His Most Christian Majesty the King of France, to His Britannic Majesty of the United Kingdom, and with it practically the French colonial possessions in America.

A great philosopher has said that history is philosophy teaching by experience. Might we not also say that history is romance in concrete form—romance in which adventure and chivalry and heroism and tragedy are unmistakeably blended. What pen could describe the romantic side of the French régime with its perilous voyages over unknown rivers and lakes; the midnight attacks of savage aborigines; the sufferings of women and children in their unsheltered homes; the constant dread of foreign invasion; the pillaging of their coasts; the isolation of winter amid the forest; the conflict on the Plains of Abraham and the tragic ending of the two generals in command; the surrender of the fortress; the return of the soldiers to France, and finally the transfer of a brave people with all their property and institutions from the government which they loved and trusted to a government which had forced itself upon them by the arbitrament of war. And yet the change was one of sentiment more than substance. Life and property were no less secure than in the old days of French supremacy. Children played in the street just as they did before Wolfe had planted his guns on the opposite shore. The sisters of the various religious orders pursued their missions of charity without molestation. And yet who would blame the French Canadian if his heart throbbled as he thought that he was no longer a citizen of old France with its traditions, its military glory, its sunny homes. Who would blame if he thought the music from military headquarters was harsh and strident and that the flag that fluttered from the citadel was to him less picturesque than the flag he was wont to see. True, it was the same Quebec to look upon, but that was all. How touching to him the wail of the prophet: "How can I give thee up? How can I let thee go? My heart is turned within me: my repentings are kindled together."

But the Treaty was signed. He was no longer a subject of King Louis. He might return to France if he wished. If he remained, the honour of Great Britain was pledged to protect his life and property and to respect his religion. What more than that under existing circumstances could he expect? Alas! Alas! the cruelty of war.

Now a word here as to the people who became British subjects by the conquest of Canada. They may be divided into four classes: First the military, partly composed of soldiers