

PREFACE.

During the past century of British rule, the French race in Canada has been through many political crises and has fought many constitutional battles. It has, however, come out triumphant, and averted the dangers which threatened it.

The antagonism resulting from different institutions, traditions, languages and religious beliefs—irresistible, when people of various origins dwell in the same territory—which influences them sometimes without their knowledge, and often against their will, has made the position of this race an exceptional one in the midst of the Anglo-Saxon population of the Confederation.

The rivalry of races is the same as that which existed under former régimes, but is on a larger scale. Though tempered by the good feeling existing between the provinces and disguised by the apparent cordiality of their relations, it none the less exists, and, whenever special circumstances give rise to a conflict between interest and friendly feeling, will certainly break out. That which occurred in the past may recur in the future. The multiplicity of political incidents and the complication of interests thereby occasioned, render it morally certain.

French-Canadians should, under the new régime as they did under the old, see with jealous care to the maintenance