

entrusted to him, he called out the whole of the colonial militia, and expressed his liveliest satisfaction at the public spirit, orderliness, firmness, love of country, and respect for religion and the laws which had been manifested by all ranks of the people. Such a conduct as theirs, he observed, would make their country respected at home and redoubtable abroad."

It might be objected that in 1837 there was a revolution; but that revolution occurred in Upper Canada as well as in Lower Canada, and only few men took part in it. I shall not enter into the details, but everyone knows that the great majority of the people remain perfectly loyal to the Crown. When Canada was attacked by the Fenians, our French Canadian battalions were called upon to march to the front. None of them hesitated one moment, and everywhere along the frontier, at the points of danger, we saw French Canadian troops ready to give their lives in defence of the British flag. Lately when there was a rebellion or trouble in the North-West, two French Canadian battalions were called out; and no one hesitated a moment. They went to the front, they executed all orders given them, and not for one moment was their loyalty suspected, and when they returned they received praise from the authorities of the country. The Governors which England so carefully selects, have recognised our loyalty on many different occasions. Lord Dufferin, Lord Lorne, and other noble statesmen who have represented the Queen in this country, have all expressed themselves most emphatically on this matter. Lord Dufferin, whose name has remained dear to all hearts in this country, used the following words in 1878, and I like to repeat them, because these sentiments are calculated to promote harmony, peace, and contentment in this country :—

"Year by year I have had better opportunities of appreciating the devotion of the inhabitants of the Province of Quebec to the throne and Government of the Queen, and to the interests of the Empire, and nothing has given me greater pride than to observe, when a cloud of war recently threatened Great Britain, that Her Majesty's French Canadian subjects were not a whit behind their English, Scotch, and Irish fellow citizens in testifying their willingness to rally to the defence of her dominions.

"It is quite true that the distinctions of race which exist within the borders of Canada complicate to a certain degree those problems of government with which the statesmen of the country are periodically called upon to deal, but the inconveniences which may sometimes arise from this source are more than counterbalanced by many advantages which ensue from it. I do not think that ethnological homogeneity is an unmixed benefit to a country. Certainly, the least attractive characteristic of a great portion of this continent is the monotony of many of its outward aspects, while I consider it fortunate for Canada that her prosperity shall be founded on the co-operation of different races. The inter-action of national idiosyncrasies introduces into our existence a freshness, a variety, a colour, an eclectic impulse, which otherwise would be wanting, and it would be most faulty statesmanship to seek their obliteration. My warmest aspiration for this province has always been to see its French inhabitants executing for Canada the functions which France herself has so admirably performed for Europe. Strike from European history the achievements of France, subtract from European civilisation the contributions of France, and what a blank would be occasioned."

Lord Lorne, in answer to an address presented to him by the St. Jean Baptiste Society, said :—

"I have obeyed a pleasant call in being amongst you to-day to testify my respect for our French Canadian fellow citizens and my appreciation of the value of the element furnished by its noble and gallant race in influencing for good our young and Canadian nationality. I am here to show how much I prize the loyalty evinced by you on all occasions towards Her Majesty the Queen, whose representative I am."

I need not adduce more proofs of our loyalty; but it is not without reason that we are loyal. It is a sentiment, but it is based upon principle; it is based upon our faith and upon our interest. At all times our clergy have taught the people of the Province of Quebec or of any part of this continent to be loyal. I may quote as far back as 1791. The following words were spoken by Mgr. Plessis in the cathedral of Quebec, in the course of his funeral discourse over the remains of Mgr. Briand. I quote this because it will convince everyone that if we are loyal we are essentially so, and we know why we are loyal.

"Our conquerors," said Mgr. Plessis, "regarded (at first) with a jealous eye and a lowering brow, inspired in us feelings only of detestation or aversion. We cannot be