

THE FRENCH CANADIAN

IMPERIUM IN IMPERIO.

For many years the relation to our representative Government, of our fellow citizens of French descent, their ecclesiastical institutions and alien customs, has been an anxiously perplexing question, and is growingly so to thoughtful patriots and to earnest Protestants. It is the design of this lecture to discuss the question by presenting facts rather than by suggesting theories; to indicate the problem to be solved rather than to attempt at this stage a solution. This may seem a graceless task, but a little reflection will show that at this present it may prove a useful one. "Slaves cannot breathe in England; they touch our country and their shackles fall," is now our proud boast. It was not ever thus. In 1834 went forth the word that the chain from every slave in Britain and her colonies should be struck off. But before the edict was passed, and the necessary details of the measure settled, the public conscience had to be aroused to the fact that the holding of a slave either at home or in the colonies was a crime. Once convinced of that, the remedy came. In like manner regarding the French Canadian problem, let it first be impressed—there *is* a problem—let its magnitude be realized, the solution then will be earnestly sought for, not before, and doubtlessly then will be found. That there is a necessity for pressing the fact, that there is a problem, may be made plain by the following extract taken from an editorial in the *Toronto Globe*,