

led child-stealing for adoption to become a widespread institution on this continent. Curé Burtin, of Caughnawaga, showed me extensive notes on this Indian institution of child-stealing. No doubt it has the same origin among the Gypsies. On one occasion, in the first days of New France, when a young French boy had injured some sullen Iroquois chiefs visiting Quebec and was about to be beaten for the offence, by order of the Governor, these chiefs, though most hostile to the French, bared their own backs and begged to be allowed to undergo the flogging rather than permit a child to suffer. Under Roman institutions a notable change had taken place from the simple patriarchal organization. The father, as head of the *familia*, was its autocratic proprietor in a literal sense. The children of the household like the wife and the slaves were the property of the *pater*; under the *patria potestas* he could sell, kill, punish, or torture any of them at will; and the principal of paternal authority, continuing in modified tradition to the present epoch, has frequently been one of the worst enemies of the child's right. In the scientific Roman Law of the Later Empire, the *patria potestas* was shaped into a far more reasonable phase of paternal authority, and as this Roman Law has been the basis of the best modern European systems, we find the principles to-day in the codes of Southern Europe and in the forms and teachings of the Canon Law everywhere. In the Civil Code of the Province of Quebec it appears in such articles as No. 175—"A wife is obliged to live with her husband and to follow him wherever he thinks fit to reside." In one case (*Sansfaçon vs. Poulin*—Judge Andrews) the judge discussed whether the legal means of obliging her is imprisonment or brute force. Article 243—(A child) "remains subject to the authority of his parents until his majority or emancipation; but the father alone exercises this authority during marriage." The Court of Appeals of Quebec has defined that "a father is by law entitled to the possession, custody and guardianship, and cannot be deprived of his minor child, except for insanity or gross misconduct; nor can he deprive himself of his paternal right." Observe that this important matter is viewed from the standpoint of the right of the parent. The child's right is only recognized by certain restrictions upon the paternal authority. Thus the power of punishing is limited to "a