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## THE INFLUENCE OF LANGUAGES UPON NATIONAL CHARACTER.

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*(Continued from page 120.)*

TO no country in the world do these questions come with such force as to Canada. To her the problem of the languages is more important than that of race. The different races of her population could easily assimilate, were it not for the inheritance of two forms of speech within the one organism. French, by the accident of political government, plays a part in Canada which it could never play in the United States. There, in the absence of special privileges, and overwhelmed by the greater majority of the English-speaking people, it would, in time, disappear. Here it has scope for its ambition; and, by the simple fact of the multiplicity of births, it is driving English more and more from Quebec, and is extending its sway over the eastern portion of Ontario. What is its character? What are its capabilities for developing the character of a people? How does it compare with English in these respects? What is its bearing on the permanence of the Dominion and the future of the continent? These questions are forcing themselves upon the attention of Canadians. To show their importance, nothing more will be necessary than to quote a somewhat lengthy passage from an address given before *L'Institut Canadien de Québec*, in 1878, by the Rev. Père Mothon. In the extract, the significant use of the term "Canadian" as synonymous