

seem to change the whole character of the language are the sounds of *a*, *ai*, *ais* *ait*, and *oir* discussed above; but these sounds are just as common in various parts of France. So-called pure French—*i.e.*, the literary—is not found in France except among the highly educated: and educated Canadians speaking this very literary language are not so rare in Quebec as is usually supposed, and they are certainly more accessible there than in Paris. French is French, whether learned from the lips of a Canadian or a Parisian; and vocabulary, idiom and pronunciation are as likely to be pure in one case as in the other. Let no student expect unalloyed purity of language in France: there is no special virtue in its soil or in its atmosphere. In Paris the student must accept or reject the language according as his own judgment tells him it is pure or impure; he has no more to do in Quebec; and the probability is that he will hear fewer impurities of language in Quebec than in Paris. The majority of people met with in either place are not highly educated, but they are not on that account to be shunned. The contempt of the uneducated man's language, so apparent in most of our students of language, it is hard to understand. The uneducated man's language differs from that of the educated man, not so much in kind as in extent. Let the student ask himself whether he has proved himself capable of understanding and using *être*, *avoir*, *aller*, and *venir* in all their relations before he treats any Frenchman's dialect with contempt: and if he cannot answer the question affirmatively he may profitably learn of the least of the uneducated. The danger in language study lies in choosing not what is too common and colloquial, but what is ultra-literary and unnatural.

"Were it not for a false sentiment in social and college circles a student would no more think of going to Paris to learn French than he would of going to London to learn English. As it is, Canadian-French is despised. Because it may be had cheaply it is worthless. This sentiment is almost entirely to blame for the miserable attempt to teach French in so many High Schools of the Province."