

BILINGUAL SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of The Globe: Being one of your subscribers, and a constant reader, I am greatly astonished to find a few writers on the above question, and one in particular, who signs himself "An Ontario Citizen," whose article appeared in your issue of November 8, who insinuate by their expressions that the French-Canadian speaking population of **Canada** are to be classed with such foreign elements as the Gallicians, Russians, Poles, Italians, Germans and Jews who migrate to **Canada**.

I might say to these misinformed writers that had they but passed their entrance examinations they would easily have found out in some of the primary books the origin of the French race in **Canada**. First let us reason by facts according to our own "Canadian history," by asking ourselves three simple and distinct questions:

(1) Who first discovered **Canada**, and to what nationality did he belong? Any true Canadian can answer that question without the least hesitation.

(2) Who were the first settlers and colonizers of **Canada**, and to what nationality did they belong? The answer to this question is too obvious to be here set down.

(3) Who are the direct descendants of these first settlers, whose settlement dates back over three centuries ago? And the answer to this question is well known to all, and stands in favor of the French-Canadian.

Now, can it be admissibly or reasonably asserted in spite of these convincing facts, that the French-Canadian is to be classified with the many **foreigners** who form part of the population of our vast Dominion? There is no more similarity of comparison than to compare the white to the black race.

Those few writers who contend with such wrongful arguments that the French-speaking race of **Canada** are on an equal footing with the **foreigners** above-mentioned, are they aware that the Governor-General of Canada, our noble King's representative, reads the address from the throne at both opening and closing of Parliament in both the English and French languages, not by courtesy to the French representatives of the Senate or the House of Commons, but because it is part of his duty to do so, as both languages are officially recognized in **Canada** in the same manner as the English and Dutch languages have been granted official recognition in the new South African dominion? A similar privilege and recognition was given to the French-speaking race of Canada at the time of the cession of Canada to England. Would anyone dare to insinuate that the Boers are now foreigner under the British flag? It is therefore a absurd and ridiculous to try and say that the French-Canadians are **foreigners**; the French-Canadians are to **Canada** what the maple tree is to **Canada**; they have grown and lived in it long before any of these deluded writers can trace back their antecedents.

Coming back to the bilingual school controversy, those who think that to be limited to one language is enough for their advancement, let them think and practise the doctrine themselves, but there are other who are in favor of a greater accomplishment by acquiring the knowledge of two or more languages, the possession of which will prove most assuredly no hindrance to the betterment of their advancement either in **Canada** or elsewhere.

A Toronto Citizen.

Toronto, Nov. 17.