

News paper

Le Canadien, 12 Jan. 1888
Continued

Translated from original French.

Minneapolis, 9 January 1888

Dear Editor of the "Canadien" of St-Paul: MN

I ask for a little space in your journal to bring to the attention of your readers what is transpiring and what has transpired through no fault of mine, that is that a change of pants has practically decided Canada to dissociate itself from the United States because some Canadian-Frenchmen had the impudence of skipping over to the States and changing names and, upon passing over the line, transforming themselves into "full-blooded Yankees", leaving behind them country language and customs. It is only the carcass that crossed over the line, and that made up for itself a kind of jargon mixed of French and English, and of a little Chinese, that makes the ears ring when hearing them prattle. There is no doubt about it, they have to change their name and come up with a new dictionary that suits them, in order to translate their name into English. But for them, it is very easy. Here is how one scrambles his name.

Town Clock for Cadran, Cut Iron for Taillefer, Monroe for Désormeau, Streeter for Larue, Black Cat for Charbonneau, Blackbird for Létourneau, Deer Calf for Deveau, Fish for Poisson, God Damn for Godin, Rob Dog for Robidoux, Ling for Longtin, etc., but as to this last one, he probably passed through China.

This is enough to make the most unglued, spiny saplings break out laughing. But after the wholesale, comes the retail: no more Canadianism, no French before the fireplace, broken English is spoken in the family and, well-understood, without one calling himself Canadian-French, but rather proclaiming himself to be an American. This again is enough to make the spleen of street urchins explode with laughter; if they had passed via China, they would, without any contradiction, call themselves Chinese.

You will find in all Canadian-French centers some of these unbaptized, miserable wretches who have been transfused into "Yankee Doodles"

This seems to us to be unbelievable and absurd, but unfortunately are too well-known facts that can not be contradicted, with such monsters for heads of families who are not ashamed to betray their own family, their language and their mother country by mangling the English language and rumpling nationalities.

However, I hope that this bunch of jokers will understand that I do not intend any malice, that I merely bring out, and while laughing, facts from which to draw conclusions that are not to the honor of the nationality, it being just that the current is carrying me along and I am becoming serious. I hope that this new year will preserve us from the embarrassment of seeing our compatriots traffic with their nationality for some "Yankee Doodles"

JEAN-BAPTISTE
