

Biographical Details of Norman W. DeWitt

Post by "Joshua" of July 31, 2023 at 2:03 PM

DeWitt can be intentionally classicizing in his prose, as here in his description of Canada:

THE CLASSICS IN CANADA

The Dominion of Canada consists of a ribbon of provinces extending from ocean to ocean north of the United States boundary. These provinces are bound together by political necessity rather than by economic or cultural unity; they differ in origin, history and traditions. Quebec differs in language also, and the cur-

Since he published this article in *The Classical Weekly* his intended readers cannot have failed to notice the allusion. It is to Julius Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*, "Of the War in Gaul":

Quote

All Gaul is divided into three parts, one of which the Belgae inhabit, the Aquitani another, those who in their own language are called Celts, in our Gauls, the third. All these differ from each other in language, customs and laws.

What exactly did he mean to convey by this? Perhaps that Canada and its partially French (i.e. Gallic) heritage stand in relation to a southern empire governed as a republic, and that both province and empire are removed from the real seat of culture--for Rome, Greece; for North America, Europe.

The University of Toronto from which he writes is then a frontier outpost of Classical studies with only a nominal connection to the old ways, and has a decision to make about its future. Much like the New England of the preceding century--the New England of Emerson and Thoreau

and their classically trained fellows.