

have been witnessing under organized provocation during the last six weeks, but which will, in my humble judgment, pass away so that nothing of that agitation will remain save the discredit it shall have brought upon its authors. It involves the management, the continuance and perpetuation of an educational system under which our Northwest has been settled, immigration invited, money invested in homes built up. Some weeks before the Prime Minister introduced this measure to parliament the Canadian correspondent of the Boston 'Transcript,' wrote an article in his paper, some extracts from which I propose to read to the House. He seems to have an accurate knowledge not only of the conditions prevailing in this country, but of the agitation which was then, according to his judgment, about to be sprung on this country over this question. In that article, which was written before this Bill was introduced into parliament, he says :

To-day a certain element of Ontario seems desirous that the separate school system already existing in the Territories shall not be provided for in the Ottawa legislation giving the new provinces form. There is every sign that the Protestant horse of Ontario is to run once more. The question of the hour is : will his threatened re-appearance scare Sir Wilfrid Laurier from the path of toleration and liberalism ? It seems unlikely. He is not timid, and Canada is under obligation, even an express obligation, to maintain the Territorial creed minority in existing rights.

A large number of Catholics, many of them Germans and many of these wealthy, moved recently into the Territories from the United States. Their principal men told me last year at Rosthern that one of their main motives for that change was found in the separate school system of the Territories. They had been virtually promised the benefit and continuance of these laws. Public faith would be broken with them were their children or merely their taxes handed over to the administration of the creed majority. They would then be returned, after having incurred large expenses and made large investments on Canada's good faith, to the very same school situation whence they escaped.

It may astonish Massachusetts Protestants to learn that these Germans, most of them most intelligent, and their chief spokesman a native of America and a Harvard post-graduate in philosophy, voiced a deep fear of the public schools of the states whence they had come.

The Ontario gentlemen now currying down the Protestant horse for the coming run against toleration, in case Sir Wilfrid mounts that good Liberal nag, makes much of allegations that the Confederation Act, or constitution of Canada, places the direction of public education in the old provinces ; wherefore they argue that its direction should be left to the new provinces. But the provincial powers in respect of education are limited in the Confederation Act by the proviso that every creed minority shall retain the right to separate schools which it possessed before entering confederation. That secured the minorities in Ontario and Quebec. The minority in Manitoba was entitled to believe that the analogy had been followed in the Act by which they entered the union. In fact, the highest court of

the empire has declared that that Act did or was intended to so secure them. It was violated by the provincial legislature of Manitoba.

Every transaction by the Canadian and imperial authorities, in respect of provincial educational powers, goes to support the opinion that those powers must be limited by provision for separate schools wherever a creed minority enjoyed them previous to being affected by the creation of a province. Such limitation is artfully spoken of as 'burdening the provinces with separate schools.' Blessing them would, many Liberals believe, be the appropriate term. There can be no burden to any minority schools. There must necessarily be a burden of intolerant and oppressive conduct on any Canadian majority that denies a conscientious minority the plain right of devoting their own money to their own schools. To limit the majority so that their most intolerant element, always powerful among sectarians of any church, cannot exacerbate the creed minority by injustice, would seem an evident blessing to all concerned.

The pretense that the new provinces would be 'burdened' by the usual Canadian provisos for separate schools is really claptrap, employed to blind Liberals to the underlying desire to throw the minority on the mercy of the majority. Edward Blake, a man and a Liberal really great, once said : 'What a majority owes to a minority is a full measure of justice, heaped up and running over.'

It will be strange if Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the majority of Ottawa shall give less to the minority in the Territories.

All Christians should have, if they do not have, the conscientious conviction that Christianity in all its virtues should be inculcated at one and the same time while material education is imparted. God's handiwork and His teachings should be the mainspring to the mind, and the spiritual welfare of the child is paramount to the temporal welfare. With proper arrangement, the one can be insured with the other. The life of the nation is involved in respecting the conscientious scruples of all Christians.

We have seen in my native province occasionally, the appearance of something which I fancy represented the creature which this writer describes as the Ontario Protestant horse. But, long since he has become emaciated and worn out, and has been cast aside into the political scrap heap down in Nova Scotia.

We have by law in Nova Scotia absolutely non-sectarian schools, and yet, Sir, in that province the spirit of fair-play respects the convictions of the minority, and has so bent the law in its administration that a *modus vivendi* has been created enabling the different creeds to live together harmoniously. In reality we have a more distinct and unmistakable system of separate schools so called existing in Nova Scotia outside of and in spite of the law of the province, than there is to-day existing in the Northwest Territories within and under the law.

Now, I have stated my view of the government Bill ; what have we in the amendment of the opposition ? I should not say 'the amendment of the opposition' for there is no amendment 'of the opposition'