

grant these privileges. But now, they have been granted, the people have had them in their possession and the people who are today looking towards the Northwest, towards these new provinces from Germany, as well as from Scotland, England and other countries expect to have the religious teaching which they desire. Therefore, this is not a mere question of power; it is a matter of duty for us in this parliament to see that the minority coming to Canada shall have the institutions which they desire and to which they are entitled. We cannot afford to destroy the credit of Canada for the sake of half an hour's religious teaching in the schools of the Northwest. But, it is said that some people are opposed to it. Well, we can only call upon the people of different classes in this Dominion of ours with all its possibilities and with all its generosity to set an example in speech and in action to those few people who cannot possibly comprehend the reason why the Catholic people, as well as a great many Protestant people, are asking to have this privilege granted to the minorities in the western Territories. If I thought there were people in this Dominion who required any further persuasion in order to induce them to take a broad and liberal view of this question I would perhaps recall the words of Joseph Howe. He described Nova Scotia as the frontage of the whole British North American continent whose harbours, citadel and arsenal were not made for Nova Scotia alone but were designed by nature for the common benefit of herself and of her sister provinces. I would ask my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to go down to Nova Scotia with his following and there call upon the generous people of that province to break open the gate of that arsenal where the sentiments of generosity, mutual forbearance and Christian charity have been stored since the days of Huntingdon, Uniacke, Young and Johnson, to be dispersed by the breezes and conveyed to those centres where the Toronto 'World' or the 'News' may yet have some influence.

It has been said that the Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock) and the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) will have to face their constituents in the future. It has been said that great excitement exists in the constituency of the Postmaster General, and that the same responsibility attaches to the Minister of Customs. For my part I would ask them to go before their constituents and ask them what crime they have committed in having been inspired and guided by that spirit of religious freedom that has spread over Ontario, Quebec and the other provinces. I would ask them to go and tell their constituents what they have done. But, Mr. Speaker, similar charges were made against the Liberal party not very long ago. It was said that when these same hon. gentlemen and their followers went before the people they would stay

Mr. TURGEON.

at home, but they have gloriously come back and I believe they will again gloriously come back. It has been said also that the venerated, esteemed, and beloved premier of this country will pay the penalty of his courage in extending the religious liberty which now prevails in other parts of Canada to the Northwest Territories. The same threat has been made before. Still men like Balfour and Joseph Chamberlain did listen and bow to the word of Mr. Laurier. These hon. gentlemen opposite may again make threats in this House and throughout this country. Still, Mr. Speaker, the shades of William Ewart Gladstone, Daniel O'Connell, Edmund Burke, and Robert Peel awake to the name of Wilfrid Laurier, and with a fraternal smile invite him to share with them in history, a common glory acquired in the work of a common cause—the emancipation and the unity of races, the harmony of creeds, the blending of the noble sentiments of fraternity and charity on this continent of America, the greatest country of Christian civilization. The generations of the future which are coming in the immense chariot of commercial and industrial genius to settle along our national highways, to develop the abundant surrounding resources, when in contact with each other in that endless turmoil of business, as in New York, Buffalo and other industrial centres of the United States, will merely pause a moment in their felicity to proclaim aloud that this irresistible activity which carries them to and fro is the work of a Canadian whose name was Wilfrid Laurier; and the Christian mothers of Alberta and Saskatchewan will bless the name of the man who has given them true British religious freedom for the education of their children.

Mr. PETER TALBOT (Strathcona). Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that it is considered necessary at this late hour to continue the debate, but I believe there are so many hon. members who will speak on this question that it is necessary to go on. The discussion of this Bill has already taken up considerable time, and I suppose almost every argument that could be used in favour of the Bill or in favour of the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition has already been advanced. As a resident of the Northwest Territories it has been very pleasing to me to notice that almost every hon. member who has spoken, has admitted that this Bill is a most important one, and that on this legislation will depend in a great measure not only the future prosperity of the new provinces but the prosperity of the whole Dominion. I maintain, Sir, that anything that tends to mar the harmony or interfere with the prosperity or check the development of these new provinces will be injurious to the whole of Canada.

Before dealing with the main features of the measure I shall touch briefly on a few