

tion. What are going to be the results? Already newspapers friendly to the opposition, but which are not in this fight of hatred, have given a warning note. The Montreal 'Star' which is known as being one of the best organs of the Conservative party said on the 7th April:

With all seriousness we believe that a greater matter than the school question is at stake, and that is the future of Canada as a British colony. We must dwell together in mutual harmony and toleration. Neither race and neither religion can wholly have its way. We must give and take.

The 'Star' though a Conservative newspaper deplores the conduct of some of its political friends in relation to this question, and it sees that they are going too far. I do not know whether the 'Star' would be justified in suggesting that our colonial relations might depend on the result of this short-sighted policy of its friends. I sincerely hope that is not the case, and I trust and believe that those who for political purposes have been creating a deplorable agitation in this country will not be seconded in their unpatriotic efforts by the electorate of Canada. In the name of my countrymen I can declare here that we are too much devoted to the British Crown to think for a moment of breaking the British tie. And why? It is because we are always certain to find under the British Crown protection for our rights and privileges; it is because we will always find on the throne of the British empire a sovereign desirous of supporting the cause of the weak and feeble; it is because Great Britain will always respect her treaties. And, Sir, if mayhap, one day the agitators, backed up by a majority, should succeed in depriving the Catholics of their rights and privileges, we know that Great Britain will come to their rescue and protect them against injustice. Is not the mother country to-day showing consideration for the sentiments of the minority by sending to Canada a representative whose family traditions are all on the side of toleration. We cannot forget that the Lord Grey of 1805 moved in the British parliament to abolish the restriction that prevented Catholics from being officers in the army and navy; we cannot forget that the Lord Grey of 1848 proposed in the House of Lords to restore the use of the French language in this parliament of Canada, and we remember his conduct with feelings of gratitude. Sir, what has been the attitude taken by the opposition in this House during this controversy. We have them praising the institutions of the United States and casting slurs upon an institution which all the best men of Great Britain have undertaken to preserve. Gladstone once said:

The root of political connections between the mother country and the colonies lay in the
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natural affection of the colonies for the land from which they sprang, and their spontaneous desire to reproduce its laws and the spirit of its institutions. From first to last the really valuable tie with a colony was the moral and the social tie.

But, in this parliament we have men who uphold the neutral schools of the United States against the religious schools of Great Britain, and try in consequence to create distrust in British institutions. Gladstone's idea was that the colonies should try to reproduce in their laws the laws of Great Britain, and not seek inspiration for their laws in a foreign country. I submit, Sir, that the very legislation which the government now proposes is in conformity with our duty to incorporate in our laws the British ideas in order to cement our tie with the mother country. I have already said, and I repeat it now, that if by any misfortune, the ties between Canada and Great Britain should be strained, it will not be on account of any action on the part of my fellow-citizens in the province of Quebec. How can this country continue to enjoy prosperity and progress if the normal happy relations between different sections of the population are to be supplanted by feelings of mutual distrust and discord? The only wise policy for Canada is a policy based on broad toleration, frank recognition of differences of opinion, and scrupulous regard for the feelings of those who may be in the minority. May I urge here the wisdom, and not only the wisdom but the patriotic duty of every Canadian at a time like this when questions are at issue calculated to arouse rancorous feelings and heated prejudices; or the dangers of sectarian strife the result of which no man can foresee; may I urge here that true patriotism decrees that the utmost tenderness and consideration for the conscience of others is perfectly consistent with the most valorous defence of the dictates of one's own conscience.

Mr. A. C. MACDONELL (South Toronto). Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that it is with a great deal of temerity I rise to contribute a few words to this debate. I feel that I can add but little to what has been already said, but I believe it my duty, to give reasons for my vote on such an important matter as this. I formed an opinion upon the merits of the question when the Bill was first introduced, and I have listened to the discussion which has taken place with the intention of becoming informed as far as possible from the views of others older in this parliament, older in the public life of this country and abler in debate than I am. I may say, Sir, that I am of the same opinion now that I was when this matter was first brought before the House. I regard this as a measure intended to give autonomy to two new provinces; a measure giving birth to two provinces, probably