

As the hon. gentleman has seen fit to give us this description of his visit to this Catholic school, I will endeavour to go him one better, and to say that in far-off Africa I have seen a reverend father of the Roman Catholic Church and a chaplain of the English Church standing side by side by the grave of a Canadian who had laid down his life for the empire, one or other of the reverend gentlemen conducting the service, while the other stood with bared head in silent prayer. Here was the union of hearts diametrically opposed on the question of creed and dogma uniting in the sacred ceremony of waiting to its heaven of rest in the arms of the First Minister of the universe the soul of a departed brother.—

I may say, en passant, that I have frequently remarked to a friend of mine, that if at any time I should need the services of a clergyman, and if my own chaplain were not available, I should be very glad if this reverend padre, whom we had all grown to love and respect, would come to me. These, I may tell you, hon. gentlemen, are scenes which bring men together, which make us feel that we should see more of one another and mingle more together, English and French, Catholic and Protestant, particularly in boyhood's earliest days, and not wait until our education has been completed before mingling in the strife of life. Experiences of this kind would also dispel the idea from the minds of honest men that in the formation of a government the personnel thereof need be all Protestant because some of its members are in favour of provincial rights or opposed to separate schools. One of the epochs in the life of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. T. Martin) seems also to have been in connection with a visit to a Romana Catholic establishment. This hon. gentleman, after treading the heather of his native heath for some hours and quoting the biography or autobiography—I do not know which—of one Dr. Robertson, goes on to tell how he got over the priest's fence in his town. I think that the goodwill which this hon. gentleman bears to the Roman Catholic Church rests on the fact that the reverend gentleman did not catch him on this occasion, and if the facts were known we would find that the hon. gentleman probably got under the fence and that it was the garden or orchard fence. This hon. gentleman has been pleased to accuse the opposition of bigotry and prejudice. Personally, I deny the allegation, and I venture to say that if he reads 'Hansard' since the commencement of this debate, he will find that over ninety-five per cent of what the right hon. First Minister was pleased to describe as the exaggeration of that noble sentiment as passion, has emanated from the government benches.

'Le Canada,' which is, I believe, the organ of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Préfontaine), has shown a solicitude about certain Protestant members from the

province of Quebec who applauded their leader in the eloquent appeal for provincial rights, and fearing lest they should have trouble with their constituents, has counselled them to refrain. May not a man mark his appreciation of his leader's sentiments and words on this side of the House as well as on the other? Is the collective wisdom of this House centred in the brain of the right hon. First Minister? May not words of wisdom emanate from the opposition benches or a pearl of thought fall from the scrap book of the opposition leader? However, with my hon. friend from Huntingdon (Mr. Walsh), I thank the paper for the timely warning, and, for myself, I promise to be more careful in future. Its advice I regret being unable to follow, as, constitutionally, I firmly believe that this country will pronounce my hon. friend the leader of the opposition to be right, and I believe that this country is of the opinion that should his amendment carry the minority of the new provinces would receive equally as great, if not greater, consideration than it would at the hands of the right hon. leader of the government. I believe that this country will pronounce my hon. friend the leader of the opposition to be constitutionally right when we read that such an eminent man as Christopher Robinson, K.C., has expressed an opinion adverse to the legal and constitutional basis of this separate school legislation, and that Dr. Goldwin Smith attacks it on its political side. Dr. Goldwin Smith, so a Toronto paper says, writes to his friend the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) that he cannot agree with him on the school question. He says:

The legal question the lawyers must decide. For my part, I fail to see how a purely provisional power, such as that with which the Dominion government is invested for the administration of a territory, can legally prolong its edict beyond the term for which the power is held, and make it perpetually binding on the province; in face of the plain words of the British North America Act, assigning to the province exclusively the subject of education. It would seem that we are bound, at all events, to take a judicial opinion on that point. Left doubtful, it would be the seed of future trouble.

Some of our French Canadian friends on the other side of the House have told us in eloquent, poetic and tragic language, of the advance of education and civilization in the Northwest, and of how the French missionaries were the pioneers of religion and civilization. What they say of their countrymen I firmly believe is true. We all know that they were the pioneers of civilization and Christianity in the great west. We have, with these gentlemen, followed the advance of civilization up the mighty rivers, across the great lakes and boundless prairies, not only to the foot of the gigantic Rockies, but to the very summits thereof. What these hon. gentlemen say of these missionaries is no doubt true, and let us hope, Mr. Speaker,