

passions may be excited temporarily, but they will soon pass away. There is a saving remnant of common sense, a saving remnant of fairness in the hearts and minds of the people of this country; and after this discussion is over, after these Bills have passed and have become law, after the provinces have been created and have set out for themselves, the people of Canada, Protestants as well as Catholics, will not be kept apart by reason of anything that has been said which ought not to have been said during the course of this debate. Now, Sir, if I were to attempt to give a word of advice to the people of these new provinces—and perhaps I may venture to do so with the experience we have had in the province of Quebec—it is this, that if they wish to promote the best interests of those great provinces, if they wish to have a happy, united and contented people, let them imitate the action of the people of the province of Quebec, let them be just to the minority, and give all classes reason to feel that they are safe in the enjoyment of perfect civil and religious liberty, and of equal rights for all time. If the people of these new provinces do that, they will lay the foundation of their great communities upon a solid basis, one which will ensure their lasting prosperity, and help to build up this great Canada of ours.

Now, Sir, some things have been said, in the press perhaps more than in this House, reflecting upon the right hon. the Prime Minister. Statements have been made tending to create the impression that in this instance he has been influenced by the fact that he is a Roman Catholic in religion and a French Canadian by birth. Now surely, any one who is acquainted with the recent political history of this country, must know that attacks of that kind have no foundation in fact, that they are most unfair and unjust, and can be made with no other purpose than to destroy the splendid reputation the right hon. gentleman has made in this country, not only by his executive and administrative ability, but from the fact that no public man in this country—every one knows it, it is recognized everywhere—no public man in this country has ever done so much as he has done to make the people of this country a united people. He has consecrated his life to the great aim of dispelling prejudices which are calculated to do harm in a country with a mixed population like ours. Canada is a difficult country to govern in any case, and for Heaven's sake, don't let us make it more difficult by accentuating these differences of race and creed. Let us rather imitate the noble example of the Prime Minister who has devoted his life to the single purpose of bringing the people together and uniting them in heart and sympathy. No public man in this country, no newspaper can cite a single instance where his con-

duct has not been influenced by the highest conception of what is absolutely right and true and just. I would like to see his course followed by other public men in this country. There is my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, who has not quite made up his mind whether he is for or against separate schools, he seems to be on the fence, so to speak; and I am sorry to think that he has lost one of the best opportunities a public man ever had of rising above these latent prejudices, which I am happy to see, and every man in Canada must be happy to see, are gradually disappearing. I think after this question is once settled, after the rights of the minority are guaranteed in the Northwest provinces, we may hope to have heard the last of questions of this kind, and posterity will wonder how it was that we fought, and squabbled and assailed each other over questions of this nature.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (Leeds). The hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Parmelee) who has just taken his seat, opened his speech by saying that he would not make any quotations. I presume the right hon. the Prime Minister, and his leaders generally, were thankful to hear him make that promise, because if he had undertaken to make any quotations dealing with this school question, I am quite sure that most, if not all of them, would have reflected very seriously upon those hon. gentlemen and the party generally. Before I resume my seat I intend to quote a few of the utterances of some of those gentlemen. The hon. gentleman referred to the Montreal 'Witness,' and said it was the champion of Protestantism in the province of Quebec. He might also have referred to it as being the champion of total abstinence in the province of Quebec. But true to its instincts, it is always ready to place party before Protestantism and before temperance. We remember a few years ago when this government, to satisfy the temperance people, promised a referendum, they submitted a bogus referendum to the people, and this Montreal 'Witness' that he says is the champion of Protestantism, sold out its temperance principles, approved of the bogus referendum of the government, and to-day it is doing the same thing with Protestantism to uphold the party that it belongs to.

Then the hon. gentleman occupied some time trying to make the people of this country believe that appeals to racial and religious questions had emanated from this side of the House. Now I will say to that hon. gentleman that he may read 'Hansard' from the time this debate began up to the present moment, and after my speech is concluded he may read that also, and he will not find that one word has been said by any hon. gentleman on this side of the House calculated to excite race or religious questions in this country. Nor has

Mr. PARMELEE.