

morning of the 24th of June, mainly by the majority from the province of Quebec, the question naturally arose with him: How can I do justice to the minority in Manitoba? I have taken a position and I cannot abandon it; I have a great name as a tolerant man because I sacrificed my compatriots. How, then, can I do it? And somebody whispered to him: Don't be at all alarmed, there is a way of settling it. And a little while afterwards a gentleman was sent to Manitoba to settle that question. Talk about settlement. What happens when a question between two men is to be settled by the intervention of a third? The mediator must meet and talk to both. But, what happened in the Manitoba school question? The gentleman who went from Ottawa to Manitoba went to the Prime Minister of Manitoba, Mr. Greenway occupying the position at that time. A settlement was agreed upon between them. And what was that settlement? That the pupils should be given the opportunity of a half hour's religious instruction after half past three in the afternoon. That is a great way of settling the question of separate schools. Did the delegate who went to Manitoba consult the Archbishop of St. Boniface on that question? Was the minority of Manitoba consulted in order to reach a settlement between them and the Dominion government? Not a word. The hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) told us about it the other day when he said: We consulted our friends. And who were their friends?

Mr. MORIN. Joe Martin.

Mr. BERGERON. No, not Joe Martin. The man whom the Prime Minister sent to do more for the minority than a Remedial Bill could do—according to what was stated on the hustings of Quebec—went to Mr. Greenway and Mr. Sifton. And these gentlemen showed the settlement to whom? Did he show it to the archbishop or to any Catholic of Manitoba? No, it was shown to Mr. Dalton McCarthy—Mr. Dalton McCarthy, the great friend of the French Canadians and Roman Catholics in the Dominion of Canada—it was to him that the settlement was shown before it was signed by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) for the Dominion of Canada and by the member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) for the province of Manitoba. And this was the settlement of the Manitoba school question. And the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) who, I believe, sincerely knows that it has never been settled satisfactorily—it is not surprising to me to see the pains he has taken to at least give justice, according to his view and mine, to the minority in the Northwest Territories. Then what was to be done? A promise had been made to the bishops of Quebec. Talk about the hierarchy. This was a question that interested the hierarchy and the promises had been

made to them. I have read just now the promise of one important man in the House, the Minister of Justice. I could read—they are in 'Hansard'—letters from thirty or forty candidates in Quebec who promised the bishops and priests that they would see to it that the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) should render justice as soon as he attained power. Something has to be done, said they, or we shall be chastised for having deceived the bishops.

I have now the volume for which I sent. I am sorry to detain the House with a quotation, but the Minister of Justice has asked for it. This is the first volume of 'Hansard' for the second session of 1896. I quote from page 57. Sir Charles Tupper is speaking.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to say more upon that subject on the present occasion, but I will say this: that in the future, as in the past, the cardinal principle with the great party to which I have the honour to belong will be equal justice to all without respect to race or creed.

That is the position of the Conservative party to-day as it was then.

I am glad to know that the responsibility of this question—an important question, although not so gravely important as I had supposed—

It is quite natural that Sir Charles Tupper should speak in that way after the rebuke that he had received in Quebec.

—I am glad to know that the responsibility rests no longer upon my shoulders, but upon those of the hon. gentleman who is now the First Minister of the Crown. I can only say, that I trust and sincerely hope that he will be most successful in obtaining such a settlement of this question as will do justice and give satisfaction to all parties. I can assure the hon. gentleman not only that he has my most cordial wishes for a happy and early and fair settlement of this important question, but that anything that I can contribute to that end will be at all times most cheerfully done.

Is my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) satisfied—

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No.

Mr. BERGERON—because I could read a great deal more. But my hon. friend knows how to read and I will send him the volume and he can read it himself.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I would like the hon. gentleman to find in 'Hansard' what he said was there.

Mr. BERGERON. Surely what I have quoted is enough?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No.

Mr. BERGERON. What more could Sir Charles Tupper say?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Where is the promise to support a Bill?