

and as great an adaptability for learning, as I have seen in any part of the world; and that I never saw, in any part of Europe, boys acquitting themselves better (and in many cases not so well) than they did at the preparatory examinations and the present exhibition. This, so far as I recollect, was the substance of the remarks I made on the fact, immediate or prospective, of the Provincial Confederation.

Thus, whilst some honorable members seek to alarm Lower Canada by asserting that our religion and our nationality are in danger, here we have an Archbishop and a Bishop declaring themselves strongly in favor of Confederation, and who do not see in it any danger for their flocks. And it is well known, even here, that the whole of the estimable and most respected body of the clergy, from those of the highest rank down to the very humblest of their followers, are in favor of Confederation. But the honorable member for Hochelaga, for the purpose of frightening Lower Canada, has told us that we should very soon have a legislative union, and that in that case the fifty French-Canadian members from Lower Canada would coalesce with the minority of the Federal Parliament, with the view of obstructing the working of the Government. Well, what better proof could we have that we have nothing to fear, and that we shall not be exposed to danger under Confederation? History is before us to prove that there will always be an opposition, and that if an attempt is made to oppress any one section of the Confederation, its representatives would unite in a body with the minority, and having thereby constituted a majority, would prevent any injustice on the part of the Federal Government. I beg to thank the hon. member for having, against his will, furnished me with so strong an argument in favor of Confederation. The hon. member then appealed to the national passions and the prejudices of race. He told us that the Protestant minority in Lower Canada would have to seek protection against the majority of that section. I repeat it, he made that assertion in English, and would not repeat it in French. But what treatment did the minority receive in Lower Canada when she had a separate Parliament? Did not the French-Canadian majority always exercise liberality towards our fellow-countrymen whose origin and religion was different from ours? Thank God, our race is not a persecuting race; it has ever been liberal and tolerant. The hon.

member for Lotbinière (Mr. JOLY) has also appealed to the religious and national prejudices of the English minority of Lower Canada, but he ought to remember that there is no more danger for the English race in Lower Canada than for any other, and that he was the very last member of the House who ought to appeal to religious or national prejudices.

MR. JOLY—MR. SPEAKER, I beg leave to correct the honorable member.

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—The hon. gentleman can speak presently.

MR. JOLY—But any member may correct another when he has been made to say the very reverse of what he did say.

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—MR. SPEAKER, I call the hon. gentleman to order. I have not found fault with his having spoken for three hours. I did not interrupt him whilst he spoke, and consequently I do not choose to be interrupted myself. I do not wish to put words into his mouth which he has not uttered, but I wish to have it understood that he made an appeal to the English of Lower Canada, calling upon them to reflect on the fate of their race and their religion, when he read an extract from the report of Lord DURHAM, the hon. gentleman took very good care to read it in English only—

MR. JOLY—I protest against the language of the hon. member, and I claim the right to explain.

MR. J. B. E. DORION—It is not so; the hon. member for Lotbinière did not appeal to religious prejudices.

MR. JOLY—I desire to know, MR. SPEAKER, whether the hon. member is to be allowed to assert that I said what I did not say?

MR. SPEAKER—The hon. member for Lotbinière is entitled to explain his language, or to correct the Solicitor General after he has finished speaking.

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—I have the floor, and I claim to be heard without further interruption.

MR. J. B. E. DORION—Go on; but state correctly what a member may have said.

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—The hon. gentleman is not pleased that an attack should be made on one of his friends, and yet he was by no means displeased at the language used by the hon. member for Lotbinière last night when speaking of my colleague the Hon. Attorney General. At all events I will not be interrupted.