

sentiment as that contained in the passage I have quoted.

HON. ATTY. GEN. CARTIER—Will the hon. gentleman allow me to say a word? The Protestant minority of Lower Canada have always lived in harmony, not only with the Catholics, but with the Catholic clergy of Lower Canada. And I may say also, on behalf of the Protestants of Lower Canada—the majority of them at all events—that they are so convinced that there is true liberality in the hierarchy, in the Catholic clergy of Lower Canada, as well as in the great majority of the Roman Catholics of Lower Canada, that they have no such fears as the hon. gentleman entertains. (Hear, hear.)

COL. HAULTAIN—Of course, it must be perfectly obvious, that in a matter of this kind, what emanates from my hon. friend the Hon. Attorney General East will have very little weight, in comparison with what emanates from the head of the Roman Catholic Church. Now, I do not accuse my French-Canadian fellow-subjects of anything like intolerance. But what I say is this, that there is ground for suspicion on the part of the Protestants of Lower Canada, knowing what is the position in which they will be placed, with regard to the Roman Catholic hierarchy, when they find emanating from the head, the very inspiration and fount of that hierarchy, the intolerant sentiments I have alluded to. Why do I mention this? Is it with the view of raising any difficulty about the scheme now before us? Quite the reverse. I speak in time—I speak to assure my co-religionists in Lower Canada—to elicit the declaration of tolerant and generous sentiments on the part of Roman Catholic members; I speak in earnest warning now, that there may be no necessity for it hereafter. I need scarcely declare what are my own sentiments—those of every British Protestant; we grant cheerfully to our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen that which we also demand, the freest liberty of conscience, the freest exercise of every political right. (Hear, hear.)

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—The Hon. Attorney General East rose and spoke for the Protestants of Lower Canada. My hon. friend from Peterborough (Col. HAULTAIN) also speaks for them. How shall we decide between the two?

HON. MR. MCGEE—The hon. gentleman from Cornwall is like the blank leaf between the Old and New Testaments, belonging

neither to the one nor to the other. (Laughter.)

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—I really think this is a very important matter. The hon. member for Peterborough speaks for the Protestants of Lower Canada, and the Hon. Attorney General East also says he speaks the feelings of the same class. What shall we say between them?

HON. ATTY. GEN. CARTIER—I can say this. I have seen, as the hon. member is aware, a considerable amount of political life, and during all that time I have always stood by the cause, when it was attacked, of the Catholic hierarchy of Lower Canada; but at the same time I have always stood up on behalf of the rights of the Protestant minority, and it has been my lot always to have the confidence of that body.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—Not as a body.

HON. MR. ALLEYN—I propose that this part of the discussion be postponed till Sunday. (Laughter.)

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—And sing the doxology before we begin.

COL. HAULTAIN—I think, sir, this is a matter too serious to be made the occasion of unmeaning jokes. I speak what I know when I say there is a feeling of distrust on the part of a great many of the Protestants of Lower Canada. And I speak what I know, when I say that what I have quoted as emanating from the head of the Roman Catholic Church, has tended to increase that distrust. It must be evident, that if we are in the future to progress amicably and well, it is better we should speak honestly before we enter into this compact, and that we should all strive to guard against any system being carried out, or any course pursued, that would tend to create difficulties in the future. What do my hon. friends from Lower Canada say with regard to what I have quoted? One hon. gentleman rises with a jeer about deferring this discussion till Sunday. (Hear, hear.) I should like to know what the hon. gentleman thinks of the passage I have read. Does he agree with it?

HON. MR. ALLEYN—Upon my word, I have not read the whole letter.

COL. HAULTAIN—Does he agree with the portion I have read?

HON. MR. ALLEYN—I am in favor of liberty of conscience to the fullest extent.

COL. HAULTAIN—I think, in justice to themselves, hon. gentlemen of the Roman