

a significant action has shown. During the last session the Government carried through Parliament a measure erecting the North West Territory into a separate Government, with the responsibility of settling the primary institutions—(not of one Province only, but of the several Provinces that may in the future be carved out of that vast region)—under which, as the Hon. Edward Blake observed, "we hope to see hundreds of thousands—and the more sanguine among us millions—of men and families settled and flourishing." A special provision was inserted in the clause of the constitution relating to education determining in perpetuity that the minorities, Catholic and Protestant, shall have the right to establish separate schools and this was done with the avowed intention of letting people, who might emigrate thither, know what they might expect, and with special reference to the trouble in New Brunswick. But the same section of the British North

America Act, which grants to the Legislature of New Brunswick the exclusive right to make laws in reference to education, grants in no less degree like powers to the Legislatures of all future Provinces throughout the Dominion. This action of the Parliament of Canada is obviously *ultra vires*, since it seeks to abridge powers conferred by the Imperial Parliament.

From this sketch of a trouble which has, during the term of Earl Dufferin's rule, arisen in Canada, it may be inferred that "the epoch" has not been so halcyonian as the glowing description drawn by His Excellency would lead one to imagine; but it is to be hoped that the position of affairs is still not of such gravity as to be beyond the political wisdom, experience and ability which, we are assured, have grown with the growth of wealth and happiness within the New Dominion.

September, 1875.