

THE MANITOBA QUESTION.

ing a warrant for Federal Legislation. The jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament is, he says anomalous, and if strained or used for petty grievances would be intolerable." It would thus appear that The Globe is somewhat uncertain whether Dr. Grant is opposed to Federal Interference in the Manitoba case, even as a last resort, which, unless it has been misunderstood, was the position of The Globe itself,—or whether he merely advocates the postpone-



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ment of Federal Legislation, upon the ground that all other means of obtaining redress have not yet been exhausted. The Globe, itself an out-and-out opponent of Federal Interference whatever Manitoba may do or may not do,—upon the specious but exploded pretext of upholding Provincial Rights, appears to fear that its learned Commissioner would still leave the door open for "coercion," as an ultimate means of settle-

ment. Now Principal Grant himself uses this language in expressing his views upon Federal Interference. "The present Parliament of Canada has not the moral right to intrude into the Provincial Domain"... "Every one who has the slightest regard for conservative statesmanship, naturally shrinks from entering upon such a path, or would enter upon it only when it was believed that no other course could possibly be taken; while to those who see clearly that Provincial Rights are the keystone of a Federal constitution like ours, the proposal is one to be steadfastly resisted, except where it might be demanded by national existence. It seems to me that a calm review of the whole situation will suggest to a reasonable mind, that legislation ought not to be pressed in the present Parliament, and that, indeed, it would be unwarrantable to do so." And again, "the clause in the constitution which gives the right of appeal.....if strained or used for petty grievances would be intolerable. It should never be invoked until the questions of fact have been thoroughly investigated, and until it has been proved that substantial grievances exist, which can be redressed in no other way." Only one passage in this language—and it is the strongest used in the whole series of letters—points to an absolute refusal to approve of Federal Legislation in any event or at any time.

Other advocates of non-interference have found no difficulty in proclaiming that Federal legislation under any circumstances would be an invasion of the exclusive domain of the Provincial Legislature, and at the same time, advocating a Dominion Commission of Enquiry,—quite unconscious apparently that the appointment of a Dominion Commission