

livery of the First Minister, who has become a traitor towards his old friends and towards the Conservative flag, which he has destroyed and scattered to the four winds of heaven. Gentlemen may think that I am rather severe in using such expressions towards the leader of the so-called Conservative party. My excuse for so doing is the fact that I have borrowed this language from a speech of the hon. Premier himself delivered in the Commons during the time I had a seat there some thirteen or fourteen years ago, when having been abandoned by some of his friends from Ontario he had to resign. Sir John had then no good reason to so ill-treat friends who thought they could not honestly follow him. But I have good reason to use this language to-day when I recall the support which he received from Lower Canada before Confederation, and when I find him now, when he thinks he can do without our support, endeavoring to destroy our influence and to realize what was attempted once before at the suggestion of Lord Durham. That attempt failed through the patriotism of Baldwin and others who joined with Lafontaine and aided him in his patriotic efforts to avert the evil. I now come to the subject with which I propose to deal, and I will show how Sir John has treated us.

Before Confederation Sir John Macdonald was in a minority in Upper Canada, and he was obliged to rely upon Lower Canada for his majority. He did rely upon us, and we have always been faithful to him. With disinterested devotion we sustained him. In fact we made him what he is. How has he displayed his gratitude? Let us examine that important question in the light which is furnished us by public documents. The project of confederation of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had scarcely been understood, and the proportion of the population speaking the English language had not yet been fully ascertained when the hatred which Sir John Macdonald had displayed against us Catholics and Frenchmen in 1849, and which he had allowed to slumber afterwards, became aroused. His plans were arrested. He masked his batteries. In 1865 our political chiefs having decided to unite the provinces to which I have

referred, met and adopted the basis of Confederation in the form of certain resolutions. In submitting them to the Legislature of Canada for their consideration, Sir John and his colleagues in the Cabinet declared that these resolutions could not be amended, and that they must either be adopted or rejected in toto. Some of these resolutions in particular aroused the suspicion of Catholics and French-Canadians, and were only adopted after the most solemn promises had been made on the honor of ministers. In confirmation of this, I would refer you to the official report of the Confederation Debates. The Imperial Act was passed and our delegates returned to this country and proceeded to organize the new system of government. It was convenient, in order to conform to the spirit of the constitution and the state of our society, that the Executive should be composed of thirteen ministers—five from Ontario, four from Quebec, and four from the Maritime Provinces. Three of the ministers from Quebec should be of French origin, and one of them should be in the Senate. In 1871, in reference to the New Brunswick School Act, an iniquitous law directed against Catholics, Sir John, in his capacity as Minister of Justice, made a report to the Governor General, recommending that the disallowance of that law, demanded by the Catholics, should not take place, because, as he said, the law, though oppressive to the majority in the province, was constitutional, as New Brunswick had not, before the Union, any law which recognized separate schools. Sir John added on that occasion that he was opposed to any intervention in the legislation of the provinces, unless it was *ultra vires* or prejudicial to the general interests of the Dominion. Our Catholic fellow-citizens of New Brunswick found it hard to stand such a rude blow. On the 20th May, 1872, Mr. Costigan demanded in the House of Commons the repeal of that law, and on that occasion I rose and said, amongst other things, the following :

“Sir John Macdonald having reached England, mocked the Catholics and trampled under his feet his promises, his agreements and his honor. . . . He dared to change the 43rd resolution, which provided that the legislatures of the two Canadas should not have the right to deprive minorities of the