

makes the law very different from what the Parliament of Canada intended it should be. Can the Government and Parliament, do anything now to protect the minority from the disastrous effects of the blunders committed in framing the Act of 1870? If, as the judges decide, no right has been taken from the minority in Manitoba by the Act which inflicts upon them a wrong so grievous: if this Act does not prejudicially affect any right or privilege which those who are now the minority enjoyed at the time of the Union, it does seem at first view that there can be no grounds for appeal or for any action on the part of the Governor-in-Council, unless, indeed, the 3rd sub-section of the 93rd section of the Confederation Act be held to have effect in this case also. The report of Sir John Thompson, who is reputed an able constitutional lawyer, on the petitions asking for a "remedy to the pernicious legislation," is generally regarded as stating that if the Judicial Committee held the School Act to be valid a remedial measure could be passed by the Canadian Parliament at the instance of the Governor-in-Council. Certainly there is a very wide spread opinion, if opinion it may be called, that the Canadian Parliament can pass such a measure. It is to be hoped that this opinion will prove well founded, and that such a measure will be passed to save Canada from disgrace in the eyes of the civilized world. The impression that Canada is a country in which sectarian rancour is ever burning fiercely, in which the majority are ever seeking to oppress and humiliate the minority, in which this hideous passion constantly seeks gratification in offensive demonstrations and violent words, in the destruction of property, in street riots and bloodshed, has been of incalculable injury to this country in the past by turning away from it the vast majority of those immigrants,

Protestant and Catholic, English, Scotch, Irish and German, who in seeking new homes prefer those in which they may enjoy peace and quietness, and freedom from the never-ceasing strife which has done much to swell the exodus whose deplorable results our census returns exhibit. The passage of such a measure as this School Act, even in a small, remote Province, does much to renew and strengthen the belief which has already done such injury. So does this decision of the Judicial Committee. If Parliament passed a "remedial measure" such as is talked of, it would do much to counteract the mischief that bigotry and fanaticism have wrought.

Some of those who demand justice for the minority contend that the Parliament of Canada which passed the Manitoba Act must have the right to amend it. This is at least doubtful.

The manner in which many of the newspapers which approve of the Manitoba School Act speak of it and of the remedial measure which they fear will be passed, must do the country enormous injury in any country outside Canada in which those papers are read. In Canada their ravings would be treated by all reasonable, intelligent persons with the contempt they deserve did not experience teach that even such rant and fustian have power to excite to frenzy a large portion of our people. Some declare that this decision is a triumph to Manitoba and makes that Province truly free, forgetting perhaps that such restrictions on the power of legislation in relation to education were imposed upon the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec by the B. N. A. Act of 1867, and for the very purpose of securing the freedom of the minorities in these Provinces. Some say that Manitoba will now have a truly national system of education. The system which this Act sets aside was national as it provided for the