

it, against Sir George Cartier, to whose liberality you now bear so warm and so justly merited a testimony, during the later years of your Parliamentary life, you have not hitherto been supposed to have much sympathy. Yet it is impossible to avoid the feeling that there is at least some significance in the time and the occasion of this new departure. Two years of official life have done much to discredit the party now in office in Canada. The evidences of this are to be found not only in Quebec but in Ontario as well. The "Conservative reaction" of which so much has been said lately, has been quite as apparent in Ontario as in Quebec. It can hardly in the former Province be attributed to the undue interference of the clergy in political contests. And there is no reason for supposing that to that influence it is alone due in the Province of Quebec.* Your own observation in Montreal, must have convinced you that it is due to an intelligent appreciation of the failure of the gentlemen now in office, to meet the expectations which the public, on their own professions, had formed of them. It is certainly a little remarkable that at a moment when, not in one Province alone, but throughout the entire Dominion, there is a growing change of sentiment against this Government, arising out of their political

* "As a Conservative, and as an Ultramontane,—or, as I am called by the hon. gentleman on the other side of the House from the Province of Quebec, as the leader of the Ultramontanes, I say that the Conservatives of the Province of Quebec—and I speak advisedly—are ready to give to the clergy of the Province, in religious questions, that submission and that confidence which according to our creed we are obliged to give to them; and regarding questions relating to the material progress of the country, and the political affairs of the country, we are ready, and shall always be ready, to give to the opinions of these gentlemen that respect to which they are entitled, owing to their high intelligence, their great virtue, and their disinterestedness; but we are not ready to give any more."—*Mr. Masson's speech on the address, 11th February, 1876.*