

'school laws before the Confederation was allowed to go into force.

'It was clear that injustice could not be done to an important class in the country, such as the Protestants of Lower Canada, or the Roman Catholics of Upper Canada, without sowing the seeds of discord in the community, to an extent which would bear fatal fruit in the course of a very few years. The question of education was put in generally, —the clause covering both superior and common school education, although the two were to a certain extent distinct.'

And elsewhere he says: 'He would take this opportunity of saying, and it was due to his French Canadian colleagues in the Government that he should thus publicly make the statement, that so far as the whole of them were concerned—Sir Etienne Taché, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Chapais and Mr. Langevin—throughout the whole of the negotiations, there was not a single instance where there was evidence on their part of the slightest disposition to withhold from the British of Lower Canada anything that they claimed for their French Canadian countrymen. They acted wisely in taking the course they did, for certainly it encouraged himself and others to stand up for the rights of their French Canadian friends. The opponents of the measure had tried to excite apprehensions in the minds of the British of Lower Canada on the one hand, and in the minds of the French Canadians on the other, by representing to one and to the other that they were to be sacrificed. This, in fact, was the best evidence that the measure had been wisely framed, and that it was not to give power or dominance to one over the other.'

As to Mr. Galt's responsibility on this question, there can be no possible doubt, and Mr. Penny has very justly drawn attention to the peculiarity, or we might say the anomaly, of Mr. Galt's position. He made distinct promises to the Protestant minority of Lower Canada, and when he was forced, as it were, into resignation, by the Roman Catholic majority of that section in the Legislature who threatened to defeat the ministry, he abandoned the ship, with the promise however, publicly expressed, that he would aid and assist the plan of Confederation by every means in his power. The policy of confidential letters has not been of rare occurrence. Con-

fidential pledges were made before the days of the present Coalition, and many, made by the several Governments in power during the past five years have not been fulfilled. Are we for this reason to condemn Confederation?

Perhaps we may be saved, in the future, from such failures of good faith by its adoption, as early as possible.

We sincerely regret Hon. Mr. Galt's retirement from the Ministry. He is now however no longer responsible for the general policy of the Government, but still, according to promise, is in London assisting our Delegates in the completion of their work. We await with anxiety the official statement with respect to the settlement of the education clause in the scheme, as the position must be exceedingly embarrassing both to Messrs. Galt and Langevin. Should the latter have succeeded in his plans, thus involving the failure of the former in carrying out his promises to the Protestant minority of Lower Canada, much discontent must be the result. On this point we agree with Mr. Penny.

This clause seems to be the most objectionable part of the details of the scheme, unless accompanied by the promised guarantees against the possible tyranny of majorities.

The examination of Mr. Penny's second chapter will afford us an opportunity of dealing with the peculiar relations that have existed since the Union, between Downing Street and our Ministries that have held office from time to time, according to the views of the Parliamentary majority of the moment in the Lower House of the Canadian Legislature. We, as British subjects, "carry our constitution and liberties wherever we go." It is a happy circumstance that such a doctrine admits of certain limitations." When the great anti-confederate leader, Hon. Jos. Howe, spoke at the Detroit Convention, he alluded in pathetic terms to the sacrifices made by British colonists to support the North in their bitter struggle. His son had been one of the victims of that peculiar desire, to assimilate British American and Northern Yankee institutions! With tears in his eyes, he appealed to the meeting, urging a continuation of Reciprocity. No sooner had he returned to Nova Scotia from his patriotic mission, than he denounced in no measured terms, the very principles he had advocated at the Detroit Convention. And, as a general rule, this has been the universal