

THE HON MR. FRASER'S SPEECH

ON

O R A N G E I S M.

I N T R O D U C T O R Y R E M A R K S.

At the solicitation of many friends, and with the firm conviction that the widest possible circulation of the admirable speech of the Hon. C. F. FRASER, on Orange Incorporation, would be of very great benefit, not alone to Catholics, whose franchises the Orange body makes a special point of trying to curtail, but also to the whole Reform party throughout Ontario, I have prepared for publication, in convenient pamphlet form, the very full special report of that speech which recently appeared in THE TRIBUNE. There never was a time when the Catholics more required to be put upon their guard against the insidious operations of their sworn enemies and their mistaken friends. *Mistaken* is a mild word; but it covers the whole ground, whether those Catholics who are now trying to form an "Orange and Green" alliance are acting in good faith for the general interest, or merely to promote their own personal schemes. In either case the consequences to the great body of the Catholic population of Ontario would be the same—the re-establishment in this Dominion of Orange Ascendency, were the Opposition Party to be restored to power by the "deflection" of the Catholic vote in their favour.

With the Orange faction in office, or in supreme influence over those who hold the reins of power, no one who reads Mr. Fraser's speech can fail to comprehend that any expectation of fair play for a Catholic would be altogether unreasonable. The mass of evidence which he has collected; the unquestionably Orange character of the sources from which he has drawn it; and above all, its essentially *modern origin and special applicability to existing circumstances*, prove with a certainty that defies contradiction that the Catholics who would return to, or remain in, alliance with the Orange Party, are acting the part of traitors to their own best interests, however pure their intentions may be.

But Catholics are not alone interested in this Orange question. Mr. Fraser proves, by copious quotations, that the Liberals ("Grits") no matter what may be their creed, are equally under the ban of the Orange order. He proves that no man may have a political conscience of his own; that he must obey the behests of the Grand Lodge, for