

were from time to time passed in the old Province of Canada before 1863, and it was known when the Separate School Act of 1863 was passed. For none of these Acts was he (the Attorney-General) in any way responsible.

Mr. MEREDITH.—Did they then demand this obedience, and say it was a religious duty?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—Yes, so far as their own people were concerned. In one of my Oxford speeches I showed this to be so. We do not sympathise with them in regard to this dogma, but the fact of its being a dogma of the church is undeniable. He had said that it was well known as such

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Acts were passed by the old Province of Canada. It was well known in 1864 when the Quebec Resolutions, which are the foundation of the B. N. A. Act, were passed at Quebec by delegates of the several Provinces, and with the approval of all parties. The dogma was well known when the B. N. A. Act was passed. To pretend that the present Government of Ontario is in any way responsible for the dogma, or for its announcement or operation, is absurd.

Again, continued the Attorney-General, it had been stated by one hon. gentleman opposite that there were more Roman Catholics supporting the Government than the aggregate majority which the Government had all over the country at the election of 1886. The hon. gentleman who made this statement put that aggregate majority at 5,000; the Attorney-General did not know on what ground. The hon. member had then said that the number of Roman Catholics who had voted for the Government was considerably more than 5,000. The hon. gentleman should remember that the Roman Catholic voters are spread over the country. In many constituencies the Government had a majority without any Roman Catholic vote, and that majority was simply swelled by that vote. In other places the Conservatives were so strong that the Roman Catholic votes cast for the Liberal party did not affect the result. Then another fact was to be borne in mind. In case of any serious and substantial

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and Protestants, Protestants would unite in support of what they deemed the right. If there had been no such union in this House, it was because no such question had arisen. The Ontario Legislature had passed various amendments to the Separate School