

And the first thing we should do is to drive the Church question, as it affects the Roman Catholic population, from the hustings, seeing that all experience has shown that if Church questions are allowed to go to the hustings at all, they will go there as the *first* questions in our politics, thus expelling from this, its natural place, the vital question of the country's industry. We dare not any longer shut our eyes to the fact that a great feature divides, and always will divide, the population of Upper Canada into two classes—those who believe that the eternal salvation of their children would be imperilled by the use in the school of our authorised version of the Bible, and those who will never submit to allow it to be banished from the school, but, on the contrary, will feel it their duty for ever to exert themselves to have it more and more blended with the education of their children. And surely, in these circumstances, it is doing the Roman Catholic population no more than the barest justice to allow them to get the amount which Roman Catholics are assessed, and a proportionate amount of the public school money, to support Roman Catholic schools—these endowed schools to be, of course, equally with the Protestant schools, open to public inspection. That any set of men claiming the name of Liberal party should continue to avoid settling this vexed question in this liberal way seems incredible. It would amount to party suicide. And church questions out of the way, the population will not long submit to theoretical questions or questions as to forms of Government taking the first place in Canadian politics. The question of the plan in which we can best promote our Provincial industry is now seen to be the question of questions—to be indeed a question in importance far before any question of theories or forms of Government—and I mistake very much the temper of the public mind, if any man or set of men will ever again be tolerated in imposing upon the Province any other question as the **FIRST QUESTION IN OUR POLITICS.**

CONCLUSION.

It seems to me that the great thing which the convention has to avoid is precipitancy. With bodies of men, as with individuals a feeling of weakness is the cause of violent action to cover it; and the convention cannot in any more telling way evince confidence in itself than by avoiding the appearance as well as the reality of excitement, or precipitancy. Even if the convention separates without committing its members to any definite proposal, this would perhaps be its strongest position with the country, especially if the result of it has been to give the liberal party distinctive principles, sufficiently

liberal not to exclude the Roman Catholics as a body, and a patriotic policy in regard to Canadian labour. A constitutional opposition is the finest part of the British Government; it is indeed the feature in which the British Government differs from all others. An unprincipled Opposition is however a thousand times worse than an unprincipled government, as being without the restraints which office imposes; and the Canadian public should not allow itself to be any longer humbugged either by the Government or the Opposition, or by both united, in delaying action on the great subject of the **PEOPLE'S EMPLOYMENT.** We want practice not theory. We must no longer be fooled into the admission that political economy is a science, in the common understanding of the term. A science is a thing of fixed facts, whereas in political economy, circumstances are our facts! It should indeed be termed a science of circumstances; and while continuing to fly the British flag in all the British colonies, we should have a different political economy for each, to the extent their circumstances are different. And herein I see the great difficulty of a general federation of all the British American Colonies. Their circumstances and interests are different from ours, and so should be their political economy. Unless indeed bound together by an American Zollverein, such as I have proposed, we would have great difficulty in condescending on an industrial policy which would equally suit Canada and Nova Scotia.

The Canadas on the other hand have all their material interests in common. So that **THE FEDERATION OF THE TWO CANADAS, WITH THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL THE SEAT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMON GROUND, IS ALL THAT THE WILDEST SHOULD NOW CONTEMPLATE.**

Should the Convention, however, take up my Zollverein view, it will greatly smooth the way to federation of the Canadas *now*, and of all the British Colonies in America *eventually.* The great practical end of all our efforts is to ARRANGE THAT THE CANADIAN FARMER HAS NOTHING TO ENVY IN THE CONDITION OF THE AMERICAN FARMER, (from whom he is only separated by the River St. Lawrence,) either as a matter of the market for his farm produce, or of the untaxed price at which he eats the necessary articles which cannot be grown in Canada, such as tea, sugar and coffee.—And this great object can only be attained by our **SUSTAINING THE RECIPROcity TREATY,** the only way to do which eventually, is, as I have explained, to carry Reciprocity farther, and get the Americans to join us in an American Zollverein, each country adopting the **POLICY OF UNLIMITED FREE TRADE WITH EACH OTHER, AND OF THE SAME PROTECTION AGAINST THE DEGRADED LABOUR OF EUROPE.**