

tribute to such Roman Catholic schools from all payment or contribution to the support of any other schools; or that the said acts of 1890 should be modified or amended as to effect such purposes."

Another voice spoke in favor of the minority of Manitoba; that voice came from Montreal, it was that of the "Conservative league" coming on the 22d November, 1892, "to affirm its principles, and defend the privileges and immunities of the minority in Manitoba." We also read in that document:

"No one can honestly deny the treaty passed in 1870 between the government of Canada and the population of Manitoba and by which it was formally decided and agreed that denominational schools should be safeguarded. No one can now deny that the school laws of Manitoba of 1871, passed and adopted by men who had been parties to the treaty of the preceding year, have not maintained separate schools both for Catholics and Protestants.

"For these reasons, the 'Conservative league' protests against the school laws now in vigor in Manitoba, and they hope that our political men will try to remedy such condition of things without weakness or capitulation."

Besides those solicitations in favor of the minority of Manitoba, many friends of the cause defended it by writings remarkable as constitutional and legal studies, and which were published in the newspapers of the different provinces. It is impossible for me to mention them all, but to their authors I can offer the expression of our gratitude and say that their attitude, in compensating us for the warfare made against us by the hostile press, was also a counterpart to the incredible apathy of other organs of publicity, whose readers are as much interested as ourselves in combatting with us. How blind are those who do not see the trap in which some wish to catch us, the abyss in which they desire to bury our faith and our most legitimate aspirations.

Among those who have consoled us the most in present difficulties I am happy to mention the Hon. William McDougall. More than other he might have been tempted to say: But why should I care about the minority of Manitoba and about defending it after all I suffered in that country?

No! Hon. Mr. McDougall overlooked such considerations not uncommon among ordinary men; he openly and often times spoke in favor of that minority and said:

"The French speaking Catholic inhabitants had by law, viz.: 33rd Vic. Chap. 3, called the Manitoba act a constitutional guarantee against any prejudicial legislation effecting any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons had by law or practice at the union. More over, the denominational schools in Manitoba are protected by provisions for appeal to the governor general-in-council and remedial laws to be passed by parliament if necessary."

Hon. Mr. McDougall is neither French nor Catholic; moreover, I repeat it with regret, he had to suffer during the troubles of 1869-70; he has generously forgotten those circumstances, and frankly spoke

the language of justice and truth. Mr. McDougall was member of parliament at Ottawa when the Manitoba act was introduced, discussed and voted. Perhaps more than any one else he had personal reasons to study the constitutional character of the new province. He heard the promoters of the bill give the most ample and clear explanation; he himself fought against the bill and had every chance to understand its weight and signification. His legal knowledge, his experience in constitutional matters and the courage of his convictions inspired him with the attitude he took; an attitude for which we thank him so much the more willingly, as it strengthens the convictions of the minority and persuade it more and more that every man knowing the origin and object of the Manitoba act thinks what I have oftentimes said in the course of this work.

The demands addressed to the executive council determined them to take into consideration the appeal that was made. Hon. Sir John S. D. Thompson, Mr. Rowell, J. A. Chapleau, T. W. Daly were named to form a sub-committee to proceed to the preliminary examination of the question.

The petitioners' lawyer pleaded before them the right to be heard on the appeal. The sub-committee reported on the 29th December, 1892, and after numerous explanations, restrictions, delays, etc., etc., it recommended that a day should be fixed, on which the petitioners or their lawyer could be heard on the appeal.

The report having been approved of by the governor-general, the latter issued an ordinance fixing the 21st January, 1893, as the day on which the parties could be heard, in the hall of the privy council at Ottawa on the appeal demanded. The ordinance also stated that a copy of the ordinance should be sent to the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba. On the 4th January Mr. Catellier, assistant secretary of state, sent those papers to His Honor Governor Schultz, who three days later informed Ottawa that he had received the documents and passed them over to his ministers. On the 18th of the same month the lieutenant governor wrote to Ottawa that his government had, that same day advised as follows: "Your honor's government has decided that they do not think it necessary to be represented for the hearing of the appeal which is to take place on the 21st instant, before they privy council" and the government of Manitoba was not represented while Mr. Ewart was heard in the interests of the petitioners.

After these preliminaries and others (which I spare the reader) a decision of the council dated 31st July, 1893, stating that "a case touching certain statutes of the province of Manitoba relating to education, and the memorials of certain petitioners complaining thereof was referred to the supreme court of Canada for