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lines. But the moment the federal arm is raised to attack our legisla-  
 ture, popular sympathy is stirred in  
 favor of the province, even amongst  
 the classes whose sympathy, under  
 other circumstances, would be ex-  
 tended to the minority—to the weak-  
 er body that complained of a griev-  
 ance inflicted by the stronger one.

There is no disposition, I believe,  
 on the part of the Protestant major-  
 ity, throughout the Dominion at  
 large, to refuse concessions that  
 will satisfy all reasonable members of  
 the minority, if the question is once  
 fairly put before them. This fact was  
 well illustrated a good many years  
 ago, when the great Liberal leader of  
 the day—honest and tolerant Alex-  
 ander Mackenzie—so eloquently plead-  
 ed for the restoration to the Catho-  
 lics of New Brunswick, of the privi-  
 leges that they had formerly en-  
 joyed. Nay, the privileges that they  
 had before enjoyed were not even  
 theirs by sanction of law, but by the  
 grace of the authorities; and Mr. Mac-  
 kenzie pleaded that they should not  
 only be restored, but made sure by  
 statutory enactment. And with re-  
 markable unanimity, both sides of par-  
 liament applauded Mr. Mackenzie,  
 and voted with him in asking the sov-  
 ereign and her Imperial advisers to in-  
 tercede with the legislature of New  
 Brunswick on behalf of the aggrieved  
 minority. Mr. Greenway himself was  
 there amongst the rest, and recorded  
 his vote for toleration and concilla-  
 tion and concession. The voice of  
 the Protestant majority throughout  
 the land stood at that time, too, with  
 Mr. Mackenzie. He spoke in the name  
 and he expressed the sentiments of  
 that Protestant majority, when, in  
 his place in the Commons, referring to  
 the struggle of the New Brunswick  
 Catholics to secure the rights enjoy-  
 ed by their co-religionists in Ontario,  
 he reminded the house that, though he  
 himself preferred above all others, a  
 public school system free from denomi-  
 nationalism, yet he had by speech and  
 vote supported in the confederation  
 debate, the scheme which perpetuated  
 separate schools for Catholics in  
 Upper Canada and for Protestants in  
 Lower Canada. It was so  
 also when he made the  
 memorable declaration of his  
 desire that the privileges enjoyed  
 by the Catholics of Ontario should be  
 extended to their co-religionists in  
 every province in the union. Mr. Mac-  
 kenzie's language at that time is so  
 applicable to the position in Manitoba  
 that some of his words may well be re-  
 produced at this time.

"Sir," said Mr. Mackenzie, "the  
 same grounds which led me on that  
 occasion to give loyal assistance to  
 the confederation project, embracing  
 as it did a scheme of having separate  
 schools for Catholics in Ontario and  
 for Protestants in Quebec, caused me  
 to feel bound to give my sympathy, if  
 I could not give my active assistance  
 to those in other provinces, who be-  
 lieved they were laboring under the  
 same difficulties and suffering under  
 the same grievances that the Catho-  
 lics in Ontario complained of for  
 years."

There is evidence of a strong feeling  
 on the part of the Protestant major-  
 ity in Ontario against federal legisla-  
 tion establishing separate schools  
 in Manitoba. But this feel-  
 ing can scarcely be based  
 on any decided objection to a sys-  
 tem in itself, which permits Roman  
 Catholics to have schools in Catholic  
 districts, in which the tenets of their  
 own faith are taught, so long as the  
 requirements of the law as to secu-  
 lar education are complied with.  
 That this is so, plainly appears from  
 the general satisfaction given by the  
 system that prevails in Ontario it-  
 self. That it is accepted because of  
 its real merits, and not because there  
 are constitutional obstacles in the  
 way of its removal, is also amply tes-  
 tified. It is scarcely necessary to do  
 so, but I may quote just a little  
 testimony on this point. There is  
 for instance, the Toronto Globe's edi-  
 torial statement in April of this very  
 year. "We advocate the Ontario  
 system," said the Globe at that time,  
 "not because it is fixed by the consti-  
 tution, but because we consider it to  
 be a good system, embodying a sat-  
 isfactory settlement of a vexed ques-  
 tion. If this province were making a  
 fresh start to-day, absolutely un-  
 trammelled by constitutional restric-  
 tions, we do not know that it could  
 do better than continue that arrange-  
 ment without any material change."

There is also the testimony of the  
 Hon. David Mills in 1892, when he  
 said. "The course taken in the prov-  
 ince of Ontario, on the whole, pro-  
 duces the most satisfactory results  
 on this continent, of the educational  
 question . . . I say there is no  
 public school system on this contin-  
 ent, producing more satisfactory re-  
 sults, and that works out with less  
 friction than the separate school sys-  
 tem of Ontario."

Even in the province of Manitoba,  
 in the hottest of the present agita-  
 tion, an earnest and eloquent voice  
 was raised in testimony to the satis-