

the reporters had that identical classical appellation for us in their reports of this *sermon*. Gentlemen, such utterances deserve the strongest condemnation. These ministers of peace who proclaim liberty, union, harmony, and the whole gamut of national virtues, permit themselves to insult even a whole race, a race that has furnished Canada with some of her greatest men in every walk of life from the artisan to the statesman.

A point of present interest to us is the Manitoba school question. I shall not go into any details concerning it, as you are all sufficiently versed in that nefarious legislation to understand it. All the great educators have dwelt on the importance of the early training of children, and concede that the influences then brought to bear upon them have their effects for the remainder of their lives. They have emphasized the unbounded influence of the lessons learned at the mother's knee. They understood what is accomplished in the child-mind during the tender years of school-life. Gentlemen, the fight which is waging for the Separate School is a fight to keep our children from the fatal effects of the religious uncertainties existing outside the pale of the Catholic Church; it is a fight to withdraw them from the pernicious influence of text-books which calumniate catholic institutions, misrepresent catholic countries, slander catholic heroes, falsify the history of catholic times, and misinterpret catholic doctrine. These text-books, expounded by teachers antagonistic to our faith, become the most formidable enemy against which we have to cope. The pulpit addresses itself to men who can disprove its assertions; but the child is a helpless being, who looks upon the teacher as an oracle, and, in his innocence, believes his every assertion. Let us French-Canadians understand our duty, and like our fathers let us not flinch in the defence of our rights, our schools, and our religion.

As to our language, Gentlemen, we have preserved it and I say it boldly, we will preserve it. It is, however, our imperative duty to learn the English language also. We shall thus be armed with a double weapon for the warfare of life. I repeat it, we shall preserve the beautiful language of our sires; it is the safeguard of our identity, of our religion; and to those who would destroy it we oppose a solid front, swearing by all that is dear to us to hold it as a sacred trust, a precious heritage left us by our forefathers. And while remaining loyal to this and to our institutions, we shall still be true Canadians joining with our noble Etienne Pascal Taché in saying that "the last gun fired for British supremacy on this continent will be fired by a French Canadian."

The students felt highly honored by the presence of Mayor Bingham, the first Irish Catholic mayor in this city for the past twenty years. A toast being proposed to His Worship, he was greeted by an enthusiastic "he's a jolly good fellow." In reply Mayor Bingham thanked the students for the kind invitation extended to him to attend their banquet. When he found himself in the midst of so many young and cheerful faces he was reminded of the happy days of his boyhood, the happiest days of his life. His Worship then entertained the students with some remarks on municipal matters and concluded by a few golden words of advice, dwelling especially on the necessity of honesty and sobriety for success in after life.

Then followed the toast

IRELAND'S FAITH

"God on a throne divine hath 'stablished thee:
Light of a darkling world! Lamp of the North."

Response by J. Hanley, '98.

proposed in the following terms:

"Every nation has its striking characteristic and Ireland has proven no exception to this rule, for she has afforded the world the grand, the noble and the sublime example of a nation preserving through weal and woe the True Faith which she had