

## VETO POWER.

We have the guarantee that all local legislation is subject to revision and veto by the Governor-General, or rather, to speak more practically and intelligibly, by the Federal Government.

The veto by the Federal Government is the real palladium of our Protestant liberties in Lower Canada. I have already shown that our educational rights are only safe under its shelter, and that our representation guarantee will some day "dissolve into thin air" without its exercise. But it is negative only; and if the opportunity for its exercise be lost, it is impotent to remedy the evil.

If nothing be heard but adulatory pæans to the hierarchy to obtain their political support and influence, how can we expect to receive attention when we appeal to a Government at Ottawa, almost all of whose supporters from Quebec owe their seats to the clergy, and of whose opponents a like proportion are also hopelessly entangled?

What chance of getting the veto exercised if nine-tenths of the Quebec votes are ready to declare want of confidence in the Government that ventures to do it, and what else could the nine-tenths do in their position?

I might extend this argument much more, and support it by a variety of facts drawn from the legislation and administration of affairs in Quebec since 1870, but I prefer taking only those striking points with which we are in a great measure familiar, and comparing the position of Quebec now with what it was prior to the Syllabus and Vatican Decrees, I unhesitatingly affirm that "*such change has affected the general rights of Protestants as citizens of the Province of Quebec, and especially has weakened their guarantees obtained at Confederation.*"

Let not our sister provinces wrap themselves up in indifference; they will soon learn that what injures Quebec injures them, and that agitation and discord here means trouble and disturbance at their own doors. It would ill become a man of my years and experience, even if it suited my taste, to use the language of menace, but I may fittingly employ words of entreaty and warning; and I therefore do, in the most earnest manner, pray for such sympathy and help as will arrest the designs of those who are now troubling us. One thing is certain, that the rest of the Dominion cannot allow Quebec to become the seat of chronic agitation and disorder, to the injury and danger of the other members of the Confederation. If this struggle is allowed to extend and intensify, then the day which sees the triumph of the priest will usher in that which will overthrow his power for ever. It is impossible that in a province of the Protestant Empire of Great Britain on the continent of America, in the presence