

That is to say, as briefly as possible, that those who are for the maintenance of the union should be in favor of the Provinces, and that those who are for the rupture of that union should be against the Provinces.

It is useless any longer to deceive ourselves on this point, and to attempt to conceal the true situation. The autonomy of the Provinces is the sole basis of the maintenance of the present union; and the centralization of power at Ottawa will have for inevitable consequence the rupture of that union.

For whose and what benefit will this rupture take place? Will it be in the interest of Independence or Annexation? This is a problem which I am not called to solve; it is a secret of which the future alone can reveal the mysteries.

It is allowable, however, to state, that whatever may happen, Independence or Annexation, our destiny is seriously threatened, and our future gravely compromised, if Provincial autonomy is not safeguarded.

The loss of this autonomy means, in the first place, the rupture of the colonial bond and the fatal and necessary entry of the Provinces into an unknown political situation, in which, being isolated, they would be unable to protect themselves against the unforeseen events by which they would be threatened.

This is the chief meaning of the struggle which is now about to open: maintenance of the autonomy of the Provinces and consequently of the colonial bond; or rupture of the colonial bond, and consequently the unknown with all its dangers.

The present Government has constituted itself the champion of Provincial rights and has striven to maintain Provincial autonomy. Its maintenance in power means the maintenance of that autonomy and thereupon consequently depends the natural and legitimate development and the prudent and safe preparation essential to fit our country to take its place among the nations of the world when the hour of its emancipation strikes.

To defeat the present Government involves the rash and fatal putting of ourselves into the hands of those who are unconsciously but surely working to bring about legislative union, which means the annihilation of the Provinces, or Imperial Federation, which means the annihilation of Canada.

We are over five millions of people in this country, which, divided into Provinces, independent one of the other, has great destinies in store for it, if its public men know how to develop its immense resources with intelligence, prudence and patriotism. It is the duty of all men of heart, whatever may be the race or religious belief to which they belong, to join hand and heart in securing that future. Let us therefore cease the quarrels that divide and weaken us, and unite our strength under the same flag, to assure the public prosperity and the realization of the sublime destinies in store for us!

Alas! let us say it among ourselves, instead of union we have division, and, while our adversaries are united in their efforts to crush us, we are divided in our efforts to defend ourselves.

## FRENCH LANGUAGE—SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

What do we witness, in fact? Is not the abolition of the French language in question, is not the abolition of separate schools threatened, and yet the French language and separate schools are guaranteed by the organic law of Confederation?

## OUR ENEMIES.

Who is it wants to abolish the French language and separate schools? In Toronto and Ottawa they are the allies of the *Blacks* of the Province of Quebec. Mr. Taillon has never, that I am aware of, repudiated Mr. Meredith or Mr. McCarthy, who are both agreed upon attaining the same end. That end, everyone knows, involves the abolition of the French language and of separate schools.

I do not believe that Mr. Taillon shares these ideas, accepts these fatal opinions, and is ready to endorse their triumph. No: but he is doing what he did in 1885 and 1886. He is mute in presence of the foe. He dares not resent the attack of the enemies of our race and our religion. In 1885 and 1886 he refused to intervene against those who were crushing our brethren in the North-West, and now he is silent in the presence of those who want to banish the French language and to destroy separate schools.

It is always the same old story, the same disgraceful, fatal story, it is the minority in the person of Mr. Taillon agreeing to crouch before the majority in the person of the Orange.

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