

FRENCH DOMINATION.

But is there any foundation for the cry of French domination that like a pestilential miasma pervaded the air and so insidiously poisoned the minds of the electors? I cannot say that it is a new cry; perhaps as a Liberal I am bound to confess that I heard it in my early days even used by my own Party—I believe unfairly then, but under entirely different circumstances. Before Confederation, when Upper and Lower Canada were pitted against each other in the old Parliament of Canada, we did feel now and again that Lower Canada was not as considerate with respect to the public opinion of Upper Canada as it might have been; but under Confederation the conditions were changed. With a Provincial Government of our own, local matters were withdrawn from the federal arena and all cause of complaint accordingly removed. The British North America Act gave us our proportionate share of Parliamentary control and we were content, as we ought to be. French domination could not therefore be, and never was since Confederation, a Liberal cry.

AN UNGRATEFUL CRY.

But why should such a cry be raised by the Conservative Party? From 1867 down to 1896, except for one term, the Conservatives were supported by a majority from the Province of Quebec and that a majority of French origin. While that majority was with them, there was no cry of French domination; no person appeared to dread the supremacy of Quebec in the government of the country. When that majority turned against them, with an ingratitude and a baseness almost incredible, the loyalty of Quebec was impugned and the prejudices of the people were appealed to because the Leader of the Liberal Party was a French Roman Catholic—as if in former days the Conservatives had not followed a Cartier and a Chapleau, a Langevin and a Caron. Am I wrong in assuming therefore that the cry was dishonest, ungrateful and unworthy of the Party that used it purely for the purpose of gaining a political advantage? Or shall I put it even on higher grounds, that it was unworthy of any man or any Party that had any regard for the unity of Canada or the stability of Parliamentary government?

ARE FRENCH DISLOYAL?

Is there any ground for the charge that the French-Canadians are disloyal? Let us consult the history of Canada if we