

## MANITOBA.

### BEFORE THE CONFLICT—1895.

Every Canadian reader conversant with the history of his own country will recognize the reference in these lines to the well-known "School Question" in Manitoban politics, covering the years 1895-97.

A HOLY fire expands thy breast,  
Its passion lights thy brow ;  
Brave land ! If e'er thou wouldst be blest,  
Keep to this firmness now !  
Slaves are we not, to crouch and creep,  
When evil powers are met ;  
Ah, God be thanked ! the heart can leap—  
We have a Country yet.

Life is not much when manhood wanes  
And self-respect is dead ;  
There is many and many a sin that chains  
The living to the dead.  
In every heart, in each career,  
Some conflict there must be ;  
God gives to generous spirits here  
The happiest destiny.