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Comments on the Cartoon.



THE MAIL-ED WARRIOR DEFINES HIS POSITION.—The honest and intelligent reader of the *Mail's* remarkable series of articles on the Jesuit question is in no need of any explanation of the exact point at issue; but there are honest and intelligent persons who have not had the advantage of perusing these articles, and who may be imposed upon by those whose intelligence is greater than their honesty. Some editors of Reform papers, we regret to observe, appear to be of this description, otherwise they could not so persistently tell their readers that the *Mail* is raising a "religious strife" and making a gratuitous assault on the Roman Catholic Church for the purpose of "smashing Confederation into its original fragments."

It is just as well, therefore, that the *Mail* has taken occasion to define its position with a clearness which will put these misrepresenters to the blush—if they have not forgotten what a blush is like. We are at pains to make a point of this, because the position of the *Mail* on the question is precisely that occupied by GRIP as well. There is no attack being made on the Catholic Church or on any of her doctrines or practices as a religious institution. There is no fault being found with any of the Orders associated with that Church in so far as these Brotherhoods are performing their functions within the moral and spiritual domain. The fight is against the *political* doctrines and ambitions of a single one of these Orders—the Society of Jesus. This Society is no essential part of the Roman Catholic Church, for it has time and again been denounced and suppressed by the faithful sons of that Church, and was once extinguished by the infallible Pope himself. That it is once more suffered to

exist under the supreme Pontiff does not by any means make it identical with the Church. The line of demarcation is perfectly clear, and only casuistry, guided by "political exigencies," would seek to forbid an exposure of the dangerous political teachings of this Order, on the ground that this necessarily involves an attack upon the religion of a large section of the community. The Mail-ed warrior in our cartoon expresses our attitude as well as his own in the sentence—"Good Mother Church, our quarrel is not with you, but with that mischievous boy of yours."

MR. ROSS' EXPLANATION.—The *Globe* regards Hon. G. W. Ross' reply to the Opposition charge in connection with the question of the English language in the French schools of Eastern Ontario, as a crusher—an end of all further controversy. We would like to regard it in the same light, but the facts are rather against this view. The Oppositionists hold that in this English Province the ruling tongue should be that of the majority; that all our schools should be conducted in English, and all other languages, if dealt with at all, should be regarded simply as branches of study. Mr. Ross' reply to this is, that there are now no schools in Ontario in which English is not taught, though in the Eastern Ontario district this teaching is done in French. The answer is no real reply at all, unless we are to understand that, as soon as the pupils have become sufficiently acquainted with English, by means of lessons given in the ordinary routine of study, it is the intention to do all the teaching in our mother tongue. If this is the idea, it is a fair question to ask, will it work? By the time the pupil has gained a slight mastery of English on this system his school days are over, and the incoming children have to begin their English *de novo* with the same general result. Our reply to the question is decidedly, no; it will not work. On the other hand, there is some ground for objecting to the plan of beginning straight away to do all the teaching in English, as it would necessarily retard the progress of the pupils in their general studies. But could not the "happy medium" be acted upon? Devote, say, one half the school hours to the teaching of English. In a marvellously short time, under competent instruction, the French children of Eastern Ontario would understand English well enough to use the regular school text-books, and then the question would be solved.

MR. MEREDITH was inaccurate in at least one point in his able speech on the licensing business. That was where he described himself as "a Conservative." If this word has not entirely lost its old popular meaning, it is a complete misnomer for a man who expresses the broad and progressive views which the leader of the Local Opposition expressed in the oration alluded to. The resolution with which he concluded, proposing to replace the power of electing license commissioners and inspectors in the hands of the people, was essentially a Liberal motion.

THE real Tories in this matter are on the opposite side of the House, and in the discussion which took place upon the resolution alluded to, they cut a very sorry figure indeed. 'Cause why? the facts were against them. The evidence that the patronage and machinery now controlled by the Government are used for party purposes is conclusive. It would be strange, indeed, if it were otherwise. If the Conservatives were in office in Ontario, would it be possible to convince Mr. Hardy or any other Reformer that they allowed all the beautiful chances for effective partizan work along this line to pass by unimproved? The same evidence now submitted against the Mowat Government would certainly be held to establish the charge beyond all controversy.

MR. MANNING'S "unofficial" letter to Dr. McCully, which Mr. Meredith read, was a sad "give away" for the Government. In this epistle Mr. M. (who is the chief officer of the Department of Temperance Law Enforcement), candidly referred to a visit he had received lately from "a gentleman of considerable influence and position," who intimated that "a more rigid enforcement