

than a fair share of public offices ; but it is not so. No Government ever existed in any Province in Canada which ignored the fact that a large section of its population are Roman Catholics, or which in its appointments had no reference to that fact. I should be glad if I were at liberty in every case to weigh the claims and merits of candidates for every appointment as if all were Protestants or all Catholics ; but it is not always practicable to do so ; and no wise statesman, therefore, will lay down an absolute rule to that effect. Not being able to always exclude from consideration the religious element, our rule is to see that Roman Catholics get a due share of Provincial appointments, and not more than a due share, regard being had to efficiency, and to local considerations and personal claims. The Roman Catholic organ of the Conservative party has frequently attacked us on the ground that we do not give to Roman Catholics more offices than they have received. But that they have not had more than their share will be manifest when I tell you that there are in the Province forty sheriffs, and so far as I know but one of these is a Roman Catholic. There are thirty-nine county attorneys, and so far as I know but three of these are Roman Catholics. There are sixty-one registrars of deeds, and as far as I know only five are Roman Catholics. On the other hand, taking into account all appointments in the gift of the Provincial Government, not local in their character, and to which local considerations do not apply, the Roman Catholics, having reference to the financial value of the appointments, have their fair share, and not more than their fair share.

CAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STRENGTH.

In the *Review* of the 7th October, the writer adds another false charge against me, which I have not observed in any previous number of the *Review*. In evident reference to the Ontario Government, though not in language expressly confined to it, he says that "the moral and material interests of our country are alike sacrificed to the demands of party," and he charges us with a determination to secure "the Catholic vote at all hazards ; the history of our Governments," he says, "has been that of surrender to the demands of the representatives of the Papacy."

It is not true that the moral and material interests of our country have by the present Ontario Government been sacrificed to party. The favour with which the Provincial Government is regarded in the country, and by non-partizan Conservatives as well as by Reformers, is because we have been doing, and are known to have been doing, all we could to advance the moral and material interests of the country ; and our efforts for this purpose