

may despise this little people, suffering for their faith and nationality; as to myself, I followed these movements with affectionate anxiety; I was proud of my flock and here I renew to them the expression of the most sincere approbation. It would be too long to relate in full what was said and done then; should the reader wish to be more fully informed he will find minutes of the proceedings in *Le Manitoba* and the *Manitoba Free Press*, published after those enthusiastic meetings.

Under paragraphs 2 and 3 of clause 22 of the Manitoba Act, as well as by paragraph 3 of clause 93 of the British North America Act, 1867, the minority had the right of appeal to the governor-general-in-council, and this right was used. The executive council of the national congress assembled and framed a memorandum that was addressed to his excellency, and in which it respectfully reminded the governor-general that in petitions, already received at Ottawa, the minority had appealed to his council against certain provincial legislation, and that the hon. minister of justice had said in a report, dated 21st March, 1891, that if the legal controversy then pending before the tribunals should result in a decision contrary to the views of Catholics, the time would come for his excellency to examine the petitions presented in the name of these same Catholics. The petitioners added:

"That a recent decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council of England having sustained the judgment of the court of Queen's bench of Manitoba, upholding the validity of the acts aforesaid, most respectfully represent that, as intimated in said report of the hon. the minister of justice, the time has now come to consider the petitions which have been presented by and on behalf of the Roman Catholics of Manitoba for redress, under sub-sections 2 and 3 of section 22 of the Manitoba Act."

"And your petitioners will ever pray."

Saint Boniface, 20th September, 1892.

Members of the executive committee of the national congress,

T. A. Bernier, Acting President,

A. A. C. La Rivière,

Joseph Lecomte,

James E. P. Prendergast,

J. Ernest Cyr,

Theo. Bertrand,

H. F. Despars,

M. A. Kerouack,

Télesphore Pelletier,

Dr. J. H. O. Lambert,

Joseph Z. C. Anger,

A. F. Martin.

Secretaries (A. E. Versailles,
R. Goulet, Jr.

On the 22nd September, the Archbishop of St. Boniface reminded the Ottawa government of the petitions sent and the promises of Sir John Thompson as contained in his report of the 21st March, 1891, in which we read:

"If the controversy should result in the decision of the court of Queen's bench (adverse to Catholic views) being sustained, the time will come for your excellency to consider the petitions which have been presented by and on behalf of the Roman Catholics of Manitoba for

redress under sub-sections 2 and 3 of section 22 of Manitoba act, and which are analogous to the provisions made by the British North American act in relation to the other provinces."

Those sub-sections contain in effect the provisions which have been made as to all the provinces and are obviously those under which the constitution intended that the government of the Dominion should proceed if it should at any time become necessary that the Federal powers should be resorted to for the protection of a Protestant or Roman Catholic minority against any act or decision of the legislature of the province, or of any provincial authority, affecting any right or privilege of any such minority in relation to education."

The petitioners prayed:

"1. That the governor-general-in-council may entertain the appeal of the Roman Catholics of Manitoba, and may consider the same and may make such provisions and give such directions for the hearing and consideration of the said appeal as may be thought proper."

"2. That such directions may be given and provisions made for the relief of the Roman Catholics of the Province of Manitoba as to your excellency in council may seem fit."

On the 21st October, 1892, John S. Ewart, Esq., Q. C., wrote as follows to the honorable the secretary of state:

"I have the honor to enclose another petition on behalf of the Catholic minority of Manitoba, with reference to the position in which they find themselves in reference to education in this province. I do not desire that this petition should be substituted for the others already presented, but that it should rather be taken as supplementary to those others. May I ask that the matter be brought before his excellency the governor-general-in-council at the earliest possible date."

This new petition was signed by the archbishop, T. A. Bernier, president of the national congress; J. E. Prendergast, mayor of the town of St. Boniface; J. Alard, O. M. I., V. G., and one hundred and thirty seven others. It was countersigned by J. S. Ewart, lawyer for the Roman Catholic minority of the province of Manitoba. The requests two, three and four of that petition were more explicit than in the preceding ones, and read as follows:

"2. That it may be declared that the said acts 63 Vic., chaps. 37 and 38 do prejudicially affect the rights and privileges with regard to denominational schools which Roman Catholics had by law or practice in the province at the union."

"3. That it may be declared that the said last mentioned acts do affect the rights and privileges of the Roman Catholic minority of the Queen's subjects in relation to education."

"4. That it may be declared that to your excellency the governor-general-in-council, it seems requisite that the provisions of the statutes in force in the province of Manitoba prior to the passage of the said acts, should be re-enacted in so far at least as may be necessary to secure to Roman Catholics in the said province the right to build, maintain, equip, manage, conduct and support these schools in the manner provided for by the said statutes, to secure to them their proportionate share of any grant made out of the public funds for the purposes of education, and to relieve such members of the Roman Catholic church who con-