

tional matters: Ireland, under the sword of Oliver Cromwell, and the Grand Duchy of Posen, under Prussian domination.

Surely the "instinct of social justice" is alive enough in the breast of the "business men" and journalists who lead the English community of Montreal, to tell them that those "precedents" are not fit to prevail in any free British community in America, on the threshold of the XXth Century; that there is no reason, in law, in equity, in history, to justify the application of such a régime to the French in Ontario, when the English in Quebec are given absolute liberty to educate their children as they please!

Let the English in Quebec remember that their rights in matters of education, whether religious or linguistic, rest on exactly the same constitutional basis as those of the French in Ontario. If it is legal, equitable, or, as Dr Finnie puts it, of "*a great advantage*", to restrict in that manner the teaching of French in Ontario, it would be as legal, — and a majority of people might find it equally just and "*advantageous*" — to restrict in the same manner the teaching of English in Quebec.

The idea of retaliation is beginning to take root in this province. It is yet subdued and unexpressed in public, but it is growing, sullenly, slowly, but surely.

Both in private or in public, I have invariably deprecated the thought of revenge. On every possible occasion, on the stump, in this paper, in social circles, I have always contended that a wrong cannot be corrected by another wrong; that the French, in Canada as in Europe, should always, at any price, lead in the path of enlightenment, of social justice, of mental progress; that whatever social injustice, or narrow and stupid pedagogy, prevail in other quarters, the French-Canadians should persistently preach and practice the doctrine that the knowledge of both French and English is a necessity in this country, as well as an intellectual accomplishment in all countries; that they should fight persistently for the maintenance and triumph of that doctrine against all odds; that a day will surely come, sooner or later, when the English-speaking Canadians, those of Montreal among the first, will realise that in this respect they have erred and remained below the educational and social standard of their French-speaking fellow-citizens; that all the leading men of both races will eventually make an equal use of both languages, and then the bilingual question will soon be solved.

This is the doctrine which we, bad nationalists, have *invariably* preached and practised from the inception of our movement.

But I must confess that our arguments are losing ground with a growing number of our people. The English "big bugs" of Montreal would be surprised to hear the retorts we receive at times, in private, from some French-Canadian politicians and "business men", who flatter them in their presence, but curse them the moment their backs are turned.

They will soon convince themselves that the outspoken and "impractical" nationalist is a far "safer" man, and a truer friend of the English, than the cringing party politician, or the money-sucker, or the place-seeker.