

far as these instructions result in that liberal and tolerant policy which every French Canadian and every Catholic in the Province of Quebec is ready to give to all our fellow-countrymen to whatever creed or nationality they may belong. Sir, I remember a fact in my political life, which has not been very lengthy, and that is, that I have never had occasion to speak of religion on the hustings but once in my life, and are you aware under what circumstances this occurred? It was not on an occasion when I appealed to the religious feelings of my countrymen against a Protestant—that I have never done; but it was when I was appealing to the feelings of my Catholic fellow-countrymen in favour of a Protestant. I was telling them what was their duty with reference to a gentleman who was accused of being a Freemason, and of having in consequence no right to sit in this House. I then told them that in this country we were bound to live amicably one with another, and that we must take the Protestants as they are. You must take us with our Catholicism, with our feelings, with our principles, and with our prejudices, and we are to do the same thing with you. I told my fellow-countrymen of the Catholic creed it is understood that a Protestant should be elected—a Protestant who is to be chosen possessing his own ideas and principles; and that if his own creed and his own belief does not forbid him being a Freemason, they had no right to look further than at his political career, and so you must elect him on his own merits. And by whom was I opposed, Mr. Speaker—by the Liberals of Lower Canada, who said, that it would be a disgrace to elect a gentleman who was a Freemason, and I am happy to say, sir, that these Ultramontane prelates, of whom the hon. gentleman speaks in such a flip-pant way, have endorsed the position which the Ultramontane Catholics took at Montreal in connection with the election at which Mr. White was a candidate.

Mr. DEVLIN—Will the hon. gentleman explain what he means by the term Ultramontane Catholics?

Mr. MASSON—I think that the hon. gentleman had better ask that

question of the Hon. Postmaster-General, or the hon. member for Halifax: Now, sir, in the speech of the hon. gentleman, we find this phrase: "The great battle was imminent; it undoubtedly would be fought, and fought soon." A great battle between whom, gentlemen—between the Conservatives, and the English Liberals of the Province of Quebec? No, sir, but a great battle, which is to be fought between the Conservatives of the Province of Quebec, and the Protestants of the Province of Quebec; that is the way in which the speech of the hon. gentleman was worded and he can never get out of that position, and I dare say that the Government cannot get out of it. But there is more in the speech of the hon. gentleman than appears on the surface. There is more—and this is ingratitude, coming from a Protestant of the Province of Quebec, ingratitude towards the Conservative Party; these are his words: "the intolerance displayed by the Conservatives of Lower Canada during the last few years, was the result of the fealty, by which the English speaking people had strengthened the Ultramontanes." Well, Mr. Speaker, I will ask any Protestant of the Province of Quebec; I will ask my hon. friend, the Member for Chateauguay, who represents a constituency composed of Catholics and Protestants, and he is a gentleman equally beloved by both; I will ask him as a gentleman of the Province of Quebec—he is a party man, and will be ready to give his opinion for the Protestants of the Province of Quebec—have the Protestants a right to reproach the Conservatives of that Province with intolerance, have they a right to reproach such men as the regretted Sir George Etienne Cartier, our lamented Leader, with intolerance? I will tell him this, that since Confederation the Protestants of Quebec have received justice from the Conservative more than they would have received from the Liberals, and I can prove it. At the framing of the Confederation Act the Protestants were apprehensive that their rights and privileges would not be secure, and they asked beforehand that the representation of the Province should not be changed by