

advised "that a way be sought of reaching a mutual understanding between the majority and the minority, between the government at Ottawa and the government of Manitoba?" Who can refuse to follow him, as he declares in the same speech that "it is by a mutual understanding alone that this question can be settled, in a manner which will give to the minority their privileges and their rights, and will not infringe on the rights of the majority?" "This is the way I would do," added Mr. Laurier, "if it were my fortune to be the adviser of Her Majesty in this country."

And how would the Liberal chieftain bring about a condition of affairs that would lead to such a mutual understanding? Just by following in the lines advocated by his own distinguished predecessors in the leadership of Canadian Liberals—Brown, McKenzie and Blake. Hear him at the Renfrew meeting, as he tells his hearers how it could be done. "I choose conciliation as my motto," said he. "We must have peace in this country. We must have harmony. We are above everything Canadians, whatever may be our religious beliefs, whatever be our opinions. . . . If we want to build up this nation we can do it only by everyone of us individually making sacrifice, upon the altar of our common country, of something of our own opinions and prejudices. If the question is approached in this way, I think it is easy of solution, but if it is approached in any other way, I see nothing but strife and discord for the future in this land of ours."

No more true or patriotic words were ever spoken by a statesman in any land, and they should be well weighed by both the minority and majority in this province. Unless wise counsels, such as Mr. Laurier recommends, are to prevail, and that ere long, the divergence between the contending elements will have become so wide as to make a reconciliation impossible. Then, indeed, as the Liberal leader foresees, and earnestly warns us, "there is nothing but strife and discord for the future in this fair land of ours."

At Brockville, on a later day, Mr. Laurier returned to the subject, reiterating the opinion he had already expressed. "We may be separated by creed, but we are all Christians. We acknowledge the law of Christ, and surely there is in the hearts of all of us enough of the Christian character taught by Christ, to allow every one of us to make, for the regulation of this question, a sacrifice, on the altar

of his country, of something of his own preferences."

Like Dr. Grant, Mr. Laurier urges that the settlement of the question should be effected by our own legislature. The difficulty in his view of it does not arise so much from any objection on the part of the majority to make concessions that will satisfy the aggrieved minority, but rather from an objection to the federal parliament exercising its authority to legislate on the question, even though its possession of that authority may be altogether undoubted.

When in his Brockville address he openly made the declaration: "I am anxious to see those privileges restored to the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba," Mr. Laurier said no more of course than we could expect him to say, as from the very first he has not hesitated to express his entire sympathy with his co-religionists here in their hard fought struggle. He went much further, however, and in the most emphatic terms expressed his unlimited confidence that if Ottawa left Manitoba alone, his Protestant hearers would gladly see the claims of the minority conceded. "There is not a man in this audience," exclaimed Mr. Laurier in an outburst of eloquence, "but who would be glad to see the Catholic schools restored by the legislature of Manitoba." This was said at the Merrickville meeting, which, according to the Globe's report was a specially enthusiastic demonstration, where "cheers went up for Mr. Laurier from a thousand throats," and where "there was not a dissentient voice amongst the shouts of approbation with which the Liberal leader's declaration of policy was received." I wish to be permitted, Mr. Editor, to join most heartily in those expressions of approbation.

There is a "but," however, which Mr. Laurier had to interpose before he closed the sentence from which I last quoted. "But," said he, "there is a repugnance to the Canadian parliament overriding the legislature of Manitoba." Ah, that is just where the shoe pinches. Principal Grant and Mr. Laurier have correctly diagnosed the difficulty. We do not like to be told by outsiders that we are in the wrong, much less to have another power actually intervene, even to correct our mistakes. Were Manitoba herself to make the most liberal concessions to the minority, the fact would scarcely elicit a word of unfavorable comment in the other prov-

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