

party, as follows: "The Dominion will go to smash in a few years. A dozen Canadian Pacific Railways cannot hold the rotten thing together." "Annexation to the United States is the only goal to which Canadians should look." For this reason he welcomed McCarthy and his thorn stick of "equal rights." It was at McCarthy's meeting at Portage La Prairie that he declared that his colleagues had decided to abolish separate schools and the French language in Manitoba! Martin's speech aroused the Catholics. A deputation of them visited Mr. Greenway and demanded of him whether the government intended to abolish separate schools and the French language. Mr. Greenway, in elegant phrase, replied: "No! My government have no such intention. That man Martin has made an ass of himself. I must get rid of him." Later on Mr. Martin characterized Mr. Greenway as the "most colossal liar of the century." (From Dr. Morrison's letter of 1893.) In the meantime the radical government was maintaining republican honor. It was accused of pocketing thousands of the provincial treasure in the Manitoba and Northern Pacific railway transaction. Some of these "honorable" gentlemen had been about to seek additional wealth in the braising financial atmosphere of the Yankee republic, when they came up with these railway schemes, and other incorporated necessities for the maintenance of public wealth in private hands, and they decided to stay and "manipulate" at home. Mr. Greenway himself announced that his government had decided to discontinue the French language and separate schools. It was by this plan that the radicals in Manitoba hoped to win the support of the growing Protestant population. Mr. Martin decided that the schools established would be in the strictest sense of the word secular: that no prayers, hymns or catechism of any sort should be tolerated in their curriculum. Mr. Martin carried through the legislature a bill to abolish the official use of the French language and to disestablish the separate schools. By a provision of the same Act all property, previously set apart for the maintenance of Catholic schools and under management of the Catholic commission was transferred to the secular school commission. This action raised a great tumult among the Catholics and their friends of the opposition.

But Section III., Art. 3, of the Cana-

dian Constitution, provided that: "Where in any province a system of separate, or dissentient, schools exist by law at the union, or is thereafter established by the legislature of the province, an appeal shall lie to the governor-general-in-council from any Act, or decision of any provincial authority affecting any right, or privilege, of the Protestant or Catholic minority of the Queen's subjects in regard to education." In 1893 the Catholic party of Manitoba appealed from the action of the Manitoba legislature (according to the privilege accorded them by this section) and it was decided that the appeal be allowed.

It has been observed that it is one of the "glories of England's constitution that the majority does not rule; that Might shall not trample on the throat of Right." India is maintained in peace and prosperity, because England will not permit the great religious sects to oppress the weaker. The Transvaal was annexed because the Boers refused to observe justice in dealing with the weaker Kaffir tribes. The House of Lords threw out the Home Rule Bill because

"I have given over this minority and to the ruthless sway of an ignorant, impulsive and violent majority. When Canada was ceded by France to England in 1763 England pledged her honor that the rights of the Seigneurs and the Catholic French should be maintained, and when she handed over the country to the self-government of its inhabitants, it was with the same stipulation. In upholding faith, honor, justice, in rewarding personal merit, in building up good and able generations into a bulwark of imperial greatness, the power of the British empire shows in this case as in others, that it is the guardian of human liberty and the true father of the country.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### POLITICAL IDEAS AND IDEALS AT CONFEDERATION.

As a proper introduction to the history of the United British Provinces since Confederation it is necessary to affirm that the influence of political struggles in older Britain have their determining effect on the outskirts of the Empire.