

THE NEST OF TRAITORS.

I have reserved, however, as the crowning evidence of French-Canadian loyalty, as the piece de résistance of my argument, the action of the French-Canadian section of the Conservative Government in the revolt against the Conservative leader in 1895. You all have heard of the "Nest of Traitors," in which the leader pathetically declared he lived. Who were these traitors? Will you not be surprised when I tell you that in that noble band of seven traitors or bolters, or whatever you choose to call them, there was not a single French-Canadian. Foster was there and Montague was there and the late Mr. Ives, an English-speaking representative from Quebec and four others, but not one of that race so little to be trusted, so bigoted and so dangerous and wayward in its allegiance to its lawfully constituted leader.

NOTHING TO FEAR.

But why should I dwell further on a topic which history has settled so conclusively. As I said at the outset, the racial cry raised at the last election was a baseless cry and basely used for Party purposes. Had it secured for the Conservative Party a majority in Parliament, even if that majority consisted entirely of French-Canadians, we would have heard no more of it. To reproach a whole race with disloyalty because it exercises its franchise according to its convictions is not the best way to promote Canadian unity. Judged by the record I have given, the people of Ontario have nothing to fear in the French-Canadians of the sister Province. Then what is

OUR DUTY IN THE PREMISES ?

We have accepted Confederation as the best means of promoting our own interests and of strengthening the bonds which bind us to the Empire. We are less than six millions of people, of which a million and a half are of French origin. Our Parliament is composed of 200 members, in which usually fifty French-Canadians hold a seat. In population and in the councils of the nation we are as near as may be, numerically, four to one. We boast of our education, our toleration, and our generosity. Shall we now be guilty of discrediting one-fourth of our entire population for the sake of Party advantage, or reflecting on a race that endured hardships and sacrificed much for the sake of the institutions whose advantages we equally share? Or, worse still, shall we