

here in Italy, be it for political passion, be it because of our relations with the Papacy, may make themselves guilty of a crime against their country, and forget that they could be at the same time good clergymen and good citizens; in my mind the priest who, at the risk of his life, goes among savage people to preach the Gospel and to bring civilization, is a soldier, a precursor of a new light; and for that reason he deserves my favour, and he has the right that the flag of his nation cover him with a powerful protection. I should never forget that he is the messenger of a noble institution, and that he accomplishes amongst barbarous people an apostolate of charity and virtue."

These are the words of our foreign minister, who adds: "We wished to contribute to make this institution ever more powerful and more strong, and to encourage her with our assistance; but in spite of our good will, we shall never succeed, because, even in the future, there will be those who, choosing every pretext, will continue to take advantage of every occasion which could excite animosity and cause embarrassment to the Italian Government."

Canadians, you are free to doubt the sincerity of the words of the Italian minister, but please can you explain to me the cause of the applauses which followed these words? Do not these applauses show plainly that every one in Italy has the same respect for religion?

Mén as eminent as those who have spoken in Laval's University ought to know well that the sentence of the