

old gentleman in a rather difficult position as to how he should vote—whether filial affection should counterbalance his better judgment upon political matters—so, when the contest came on he says: "My son, I wish you well, but I always vote blue." Now, it struck me that this is a modern illustration of the principle. The hon. gentleman certainly defended in a masterly manner the position which had been taken by the government, but as he always voted Grit, he had to get a good excuse for doing as he did. Having made this explanation, I join cordially with the mover of the Address in his remarks respecting the first paragraph of His Excellency's Address to Parliament, in which he refers to the loyalty of the people of Canada, and to the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, I need scarcely waste time in discussing, or even referring, to a question of that kind. It is a matter for congratulation to know that there are very few, if any, of Her Majesty's subjects in Canada who are not devoutly loyal to the Crown, and who have not the highest respect for the sovereign, who has reigned so long and stands pre-eminently above—in fact has no peer amongst the ruling powers of the world. My hon. friend passing from that paragraph expressed his gratification on the settlement of the Manitoba school question. I wish I could join him in that congratulation. I wish I could believe for a moment that the terms of the agreement entered into between Mr. Laurier's government and Mr. Greenway, meets the approval of the country as a whole, and particularly of those who are directly affected by that settlement. If it were so, I think it would be a happy augury for the future. I should be gratified to know that a question of this kind which appeals to religious prejudices and to race feeling was removed entirely from the political arena. Every one who desires to see Canada prosper, should also desire to have removed from all political platforms questions affecting our religious belief, or the place of our birth, or the race from which we sprang. I do not propose to read a large number of extracts from the official correspondence on this question to prove the soundness of the position which I propose to take. It has been charged that the late government made demands on the Manitoba government in a manner which they were justified in resenting as dictatorial. I deny in a most

positive manner that any demands of a dictatorial character were ever made by the government of the Dominion on Manitoba. If those who have paid any attention to this question will refer to the answer of the government to the petitions which were sent in by the bishops and by the laity of Manitoba, asking for interference by the Dominion government; the report made by a sub-committee of the Privy Council, composed of the late Sir John Thompson, Mr. Chapleau, the present Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, Mr. Daly, and myself, they will find that the winding up paragraph of that report implores the Manitoba government, in the most respectful manner, to deal with this question in such a manner as to remove it altogether from the Dominion political arena. You have also to refer to the Order in Council which was an answer to the reply of the Manitoba government to the remedial order, and you will find that the language of that reply was of such a character that by no possibility could it be construed into a demand that the Manitoba government should do anything other than restore the rights which we believed, under the constitution, the minority of that province had been deprived of. We pointed out to them that in their answer to the remedial order they had possibly misunderstood the terms of it; that there was no desire on the part of the Dominion government to force them to take any course other than to restore as far as they possibly could, under the direction of the decision of the law Lords of the Privy Council, those rights, and remove the grievances which the law Lords of the Privy Council had pointed out as existing in the Educational Act of Manitoba. I point to these facts to show that the charge against us that we made demands in such a manner as to be repulsive and to induce the government of Manitoba to resist the recommendations which we made to them, is absolutely incorrect and incapable of being established by the documents which have been laid before the country. I say it with a good deal of reluctance—that the information I received during those negotiations was of such a character as to force us to the conclusion, that there was a determination on the part of the government of Manitoba to resist any proposition that might be made by the Dominion government at that time, in order to keep the question before the public, to enable hon. gentlemen opposite to carry the elections, which were