

language than I can, the innumerable good deeds of those men of benevolence.

"But let us reflect on what has been the conduct of the Catholic clergy, ever since the happy period when this country was transferred to the dominion of England. We shall then see that they have invariably inculcated, both by precept and example, upon the youth of the province, the patriotic sentiments with which they were themselves animated. In that period of difficulty, when, for a short time, calumny had succeeded to cast an odious imputation of disloyalty, upon the Canadians, did we not see the clergy, in fulfilment of the wishes of a governor who had been imposed upon by our enemies, promulgating from the pulpit those patriotic sentiments calculated to awaken every feeling of loyalty amongst our citizens, had it not already been deeply engraven upon their hearts? In other still more stormy times, when we were attacked by a foreign enemy, did not the clergy excite, and support the courage of our youthful Canadian warriors? Did we not see them frequently even accompanying them to the field of battle, awakening them to glory, receiving the dying sighs of the victims of war, and consoling them with their sacred blessings in their last moments?"

Here Mr. Quesnel, by a sudden impulse, occasioned by the train of ideas that had arisen from this part of his speech, exclaimed "What did I say, the field of battle and of glory! Can we forget, gentlemen, that the hero who led our Canadians to fame and victory, is now in the midst of us?" The whole company instantly rose, and turned towards Col. De Salaberry, who appeared much affected by this unexpected allusion. Mr. Quesnel continued. "Excuse me, sir, for this involuntary wound given to your modesty, but it is better so to hurt the feelings of the warrior, than not to give him that applause which his heroic deeds deserve." (*Loud applause*) Mr. Quesnel proceeded.

"Now, gentlemen, will you believe it, that this meritorious body of men, the clergy; so loyal, so highly respectable, are attacked in their dearest privileges, and sought to be degraded, in the person of their head, by this bill of most hateful memory, which is the occasion of our present meeting.

"In one part of this bill, we are emphatically told that our religion will be preserved to us inviolate, as if we needed a bill to assure to us those rights of which we have been in possession from time immemorial, and which are guaranteed to us by the sacred faith of treaties; then in the next breath this same bill goes on to sap the very foundations of the hierarchy secured to us, by the introduction into the heart of it, of a foreign and strange authority, which we all know is at least incompatible with the discipline of the church. And this, forsooth, under the pretence that it is for the good of our church, and to render its clergy more independent; as if it could do good to that