

Protestant population there are now appealing to their kith and kin in this Province to come to their rescue."

In its issue of August 21st, 1886, *The Mail* threatened again to overwhelm Quebec with invasion from the east and west in the following style:—

"They (the people of Quebec) may depend upon it that a Macedonian cry from the eastern townships would elicit a vigorous response from the three million English-speaking Canadians to the east and west of Quebec. And then what? The result, we need hardly say, would be felt by every interest in Canada. All the efforts put forth by Cartier and others to establish concord and harmony would be, in great measure, undone, and the work of building an united country out of two separate and distinct peoples thrown back indefinitely."

The article from which the above extract is taken is a sort of general summing up of the series of attacks it had been making for months on the Catholic Church. It pictures the Church as injurious to the Protestant minority in Quebec; that it is the "most unique and most oppressive institution of its kind on the face of the earth;" that it compels the State to recognize the supremacy of its ecclesiastical and canonical codes; that it "interdicts the operation of the civil law under pains and penalties deemed worse than a death;" that Quebec, under the Church's rule, is so much worse than other countries that "even in Spain and Belgium the wreaking of clerical vengeance upon the dead is made a criminal offence;" that the Church wholly disregards the Dominion election law prohibiting undue clerical influence in election contests; that "the whole civil code of Quebec is based upon the principle that the ecclesiastical law is above the civil law;" and, generally speaking, it denounces the Church in the most unsparing manner.

Commenting on this article the *Montreal Herald* of August 25th, 1886, observes:—

"Now, as a matter of fact, there is nothing in the position of the Roman Catholic Church in this Province that has not been known to the Toronto Dominion Government as long as they have had an existence. More than this, the Church or its priests interfered in elections in the past, their interference for the benefit of the Conservative party. If there has been a union of ecclesiastical and political forces it has been to keep Sir John Macdonald in power. For whatever increase of influence or power, through legislative action, the Church has secured, the Protestants of Quebec must thank the party of which *The Mail* is an organ, the party in Quebec supporting Sir John Macdonald, as that party has been in the ascendant in the Quebec Legislature ever continuously for the past thirty years. * * * Now if there is to be a religious war proclaimed by *The Mail*, if the Government party are going to make their card for the Dominion elections, if the country is to be convulsed, if not kindled, by a sectarian struggle of which no one can predict the end, it is due to us why they do it. * * * The Government newspaper organs in Quebec no longer keep silence. They cannot take advantage of these attempts to arouse Protestant feeling in Ontario and at the same time claim the allegiance of the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec—this would be altogether too monstrous, outrageous and indecent. They will, of course, be asked to explain why they have thus far sanctioned what, without explanation, looks like a gross and reckless attempt to precipitate a religious war for purely partisan ends. *The Mail*, in the past, has stopped at nothing in its partisan zeal. It has defended the most corrupt proceedings of its government friends. It has sworn that white