

The Canadian Club of our dear capital has paid me the signal honour of inviting me to give a conference to its members, leaving to me the choice of a subject. I have chosen the one most familiar to me and the one which at the same time seems the best to be studied by those who have at heart the progress of our country.

I shall then speak of the school question which has always attracted the attention of all serious minds; for all know that the school is the arsenal where the child finds the weapons which he must use in the combat of life. I shall then tell you what is done in the Province of Quebec which I know best, for the instruction of children and youth.

I remark more and more that we do not know one another well enough, and I know that we have every thing to gain in becoming better acquainted. If I could help to make certain prejudices disappear, to form a more lively sympathy among citizens who live too much separated from one another, in a country so vast as is ours, I would receive the richest recompense which I could wish for this work done with pleasure for fellow citizens whom I have learned to esteem and to respect.

#### HARMONY BETWEEN THE RACES

You are all aware that in the Province of Quebec out of a total population of 2,003,223 inhabitants, 1,605,339 are from French origin, and 1,724,683 profess the catholic religion. Thus the catholics are eighty six per cent of the population. Owing to the well regulated scholastic administration, the best of understanding reigns between the two races and among the members of the various religious dominations. All understand that they should live in harmony, all are aware that most nations have been formed from heterogeneous elements as their flags are formed of morsels of silk or of wool of different colours sewn together.