

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Yes, I had withdrawn for a season, and I hope that I was of some service on the Bench (Applause). I think I have been of some service since I left the Bench (Loud Applause), for I have perhaps contributed to keep my hon. friend where he is. (Cheers.)

Further, continued the Attorney-General, to refer again to the case he had been putting, it was not as if the compromise of which he had spoken had been effected by a bare majority of the people, or by a small majority. The case was stronger than that, as the Imperial Parliament would learn or would know. The arrangement had been accepted by men of all parties and creeds in both Upper and Lower Canada; it was a compromise effected by the whole people to an extent that very seldom happened in the case of a great public measure; and people at the present day have only to understand the position in order to perceive beyond doubt that the only possible use of the cry to abolish Separate Schools is, that it may make temporary political and party capital. He knew that there were some very good men amongst those who were engaged in stirring up the public mind for the abolition of Separate Schools.

MR. MEREDITH.—For political purposes?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had been going on to say in regard to these, not for political purposes, but from conviction. If the hon. member for London engaged in such a crusade, it would be for political purposes, as the honorable member knew that the abolition was impracticable. But many had engaged in stirring up this feeling who had no political purpose of that kind, and on the contrary were actuated by religious zeal, were upright men, anxious in this as in all things to do their whole duty. They were acting under the idea that the abolition of Separate Schools might be accomplished by means of the agitation. But united with them were others who had been closer students of our political history, and who knew that no such result could come of the agitation. With these it was simply being used as a political cry. And was there anything more disgraceful than that such a matter should be used as political capital? (Applause.)

Several other things had been said by hon. gentlemen opposite with the same purpose of arousing, for party purposes, a hostile feeling among those Protestants who did not perceive the practical bearings of this question. It was said

THAT THE LAW DISCRIMINATED

in favor of Roman Catholics, and that they have privileges in regard to their Separate Schools which the Protestants have not.