

by the action of this Parliament. Now, Sir, I think I have given the House sufficiently good grounds for the opinion which I have expressed—that on the two great issues between the parties in this country, the hon. gentleman is sitting here not by virtue of having had his policy maintained either on one question or the other, but that so far as the country is concerned, the hon. gentleman is in a minority. But, Sir, I must now draw the hon. gentleman's attention to a charge made by him against myself, and one which had a great deal to do with the results in the recent election—that I had endeavoured to raise a race and religious cry in this country. Sir, I stand in the presence of this House and before the people of this country; I stand here with a record of over forty-one years of public life, and I say in a most clear and unhesitating manner that from the hour I entered public life to the present, no man has been able fairly to charge me with endeavouring to set race against race or religion against religion. On the contrary, my whole life bears testimony, every act of it, that such is not the case. I could cite proofs innumerable, if I did not fear to weary the House, to show that my great aim as a public man has been to promote the utmost harmony, the utmost confidence and the most kindly co-operation between those of different races and of different religions. I recognize fully and in the most unequivocal manner that in this country, divided as we are into two great races and differing largely on the questions of religion, it would be impossible to look forward with any hope or any confidence to the future of Canada if questions of race and questions of religion were permitted to enter into the decision of the electorate of the country. I have always set my face against it, and I shall always continue to do so. Now, Sir, on the occasion of the welcome which the hon. gentleman received in the city of Ottawa, he is reported in the Montreal "Gazette" as saying:

You well know that when Sir Charles Tupper was appealing to the prejudices of my fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, while he was trying his best to arouse passions which we know when aroused, are uncontrollable; when he was doing that the Liberal party in the province of Quebec never appealed to passion, and that the Liberal party obtained victory upon the same grounds in Quebec as in the province of Ontario and every part of the Dominion, Liberals we were in Ontario, in Nova Scotia and in Quebec as well.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. An hon. gentleman says "hear, hear." I think he has forgotten the fact that I have given the House the most clear and unmistakable evidence, from the lips of the First Minister himself, that his policy as propounded in the province of Quebec on this great question, was as unlike his policy propounded in

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

the province of Ontario and on the floor of this House, as day is unlike night. Well, Sir, I will now come to the grounds upon which the hon. gentleman charged me with having appealed to the electorate of this country to oppose him by reason of his being a Frenchman and a Catholic. I say, Sir, that I should feel myself utterly degraded if I were capable of doing either the one or the other. I will briefly give the House the grounds upon which the hon. gentleman made that charge, one of the gravest, one of the most important charges that it is possible for one public man to make against another; and I put it to his own sense of candour and justice as to whether he has not misrepresented me in the most palpable manner. The hon. gentleman, speaking at Terrebonne, on the 13th of May last, is reported as follows:—

Mr. Laurier next quoted from Sir Charles Tupper's speech in Winnipeg, the following: "To my Conservative friends who have turned their backs upon me, I want to make another appeal, and it is this: I want to know where is the man with any brains in his head, where is the man who has any capacity for exercising intelligent reasoning who would justify himself, or could justify himself to his countrymen, if he oppressed a feeble minority, and that for the purpose of bringing into power a Roman Catholic French Premier, who declares he will do more? Do you think he would stultify himself? Perhaps I hear a person say, that Mr. Laurier has done much to deter the passage of the Remedial Bill. Quite so, but I want to ask that person the reason Mr. Laurier gave for it. It was that the Bill was useless, that it was a half-hearted measure, that it was good for nothing, that it could do nothing for the Roman Catholics, and that he would have a much stronger Bill."

The First Minister then went on to say:

I protest against the language of Sir Charles Tupper, who says to the Protestants of Manitoba, "Are you going to put at the head of the Government a French Canadian, a Catholic, for, gentlemen, if the Liberal party triumphs the Prime Minister will be a French Canadian and a Catholic." I protest against the language of Sir Charles Tupper, who speaks thus in Manitoba. He will speak on Friday in Sohmer Park, in Montreal, and he will not dare to speak like that.

Now, Sir, I ask the hon. gentleman whether that is not a complete misrepresentation of the quotation as I read it to the House. What did I say, Sir? I made no appeal to the electorate of Canada to reject the hon. gentleman because he was a Frenchman or a Catholic. So far from that being the case, there has not been a word in any speech I ever uttered, here or elsewhere, that will bear that construction for a single moment. The appeal I made was not to Protestants, it was to my own friends. To my own friends I said: Will you turn your back upon me, will you desert the party to which you belong for the purpose of bringing into power a Frenchman and a Roman Catholic as Prime Minister?