

the federal compact, which, at the request of several persons, I now republish in the present letter, which will be followed by others.

Shall I add that the Supreme Court does not seem to be alone in viewing the federal compact in a manner unfavorable to the provinces, and that the federal parliament has, on several occasions, encroached upon the provincial legislatures and overstepped the sphere of its powers? The license act of last session is, in my opinion, a striking example.

It was the extraordinary character of this act that called public attention to the danger of these encroachments, revealed their tendency to Legislative Union, and awakened public opinion in the Province of Quebec, until then unaroused—notwithstanding the lively interest which it should excite—upon this as upon several other questions.

May I hope that the importance of the subject will communicate a share of its interest to these pages in which it is endeavored to combat the theory of the Supreme Court and to defend provincial autonomy.

The benefit of this autonomy does not alone concern a portion of the population of the Province of Quebec, in which the conflict of race has now ceased. All Lower-Canadians, as well as all the inhabitants of the other confederate provinces, have a common interest in opposing the excessive centralization of federal power, the lowering of their legislatures, and the gradual disappearance of their constitutions.

It is, in truth, the cause of the provinces that I have undertaken to defend against an enemy which as yet appears only as a spot upon the horizon, but this spot may increase in size, may become a cloud, and the cloud may bring forth a tempest! From out of this tempest may we never see arise.....Legislative Union!