

that I did not master the language of which I never had more than an imperfect knowledge and to me theologically all religions look alike in the sense that the Golden Rule, the conscience clause of every creed, is the saving salt of all religionists and without it every religion must become the empty shell of cold formalism. My daughter, who was brought up in the faith, I used to take on my knee and teach her the Catholic Catechism and never permitted her to neglect her church duties. I have always had the highest admiration for the heroism of Cardinal Newman, who, with all the clearness of his great intellect, saw no logical standing ground between Agnosticism and Catholicism and finally bowed to Authority in the latter. Sincerity of conviction is the greatest of moral and political forces.

I differentiate, however, between the church theological and the church political which trenches upon the domain of state, and in Quebec we must confess that as completely as in any other country in the world, and much more successfully, has the church become identified with the State in matters large and small; and in the very complexity of that organization and in its intimacy with the very fibre of political life, lies one of the serious problems we have to face. But it is not the most serious, because the Church is wise enough in matters which may ultimately be its own undoing. We are not so much concerned in the church, as a church, as in a state politically which might destroy in part at least the objects for which federation was devised, to make us one people in British North America, to eliminate racial feuds and to develop our moral and material resources to their fullest extent. Beyond our own federation, the wider federation to which many of us at least look as a logical evolution, it is a matter for Canadians to argue out sanely, not by resort to recrimination, intrigue and implications of race enmity. Every man has the right to his own views as to Canada's destiny, but as a unit we should march towards it once it has been decided upon.