

connection with that Party. That was the point and the only point. I did not require, and I am sure that the House or the country did not require any explanations from my honorable friend of his own personal views on a matter of this kind. His career—his distinguished career, of many years standing, and the ground he has uniformly taken in public life, would have forbidden me supposing for one moment, that he could personally have been in sympathy with the attempt—the unfortunate attempt made by one of his colleagues to stir up religious strife in the Province of Quebec; and all that I felt at all interested to know was not whether my hon. friend shared these opinions, but whether he approved of the hon. gentleman's statement, that if his utterances were not endorsed by his Party, then his connection with that party must cease, and to say whether these utterances were really approved of by the head of the Administration. I infer however, and everybody will infer, from what my hon. friend has stated, that he does not approve of that speech—of the doctrine of that speech, and of the line of tactics which were, perhaps, to be inaugurated by that speech; but my hon. friend has stopped just a little short, and I should not have said so if he had not called me to my feet. He stopped just a little short of saying what I think he should say—whether he approved or disapproved of the substance of that speech, or of the time and occasion, and circumstances under which it was delivered.

Mr. MASSON (Terrebonne) — Mr. Speaker, I need not say, that I am exceedingly happy to find that my hon. friend, the member for Chateauguay, is not satisfied with the explanation given by the Hon. the Postmaster General in a letter which he lately published in the papers, and which letter was endorsed by a part of the French Canadian Liberal press of the Province of Quebec. And I am also happy to see that he, belonging to a ~~camp~~ ^{camp} different from ours, thinks that the action of the Postmaster General should be repudiated by every well-thinking Protestant in this community. I am sorry to see, Mr. Speaker, that in an explanation of this matter, the Prime Minister, after one

of his colleagues had taken upon himself to state at a public meeting, that though not authorized to speak in the name of his colleagues, nevertheless, he was so sure of their opinion in favor of his views as to say, that he would leave the Government if his speech was not endorsed. I am sorry to see, that the Hon. Minister of Public Works, the Leader of this Government, the gentleman to whom we are obliged to look up, should have stood up in his place to discuss such a question, instead of avoiding the difficulty of coming before Parliament and discussing this question by dealing characteristically and immediately with the offence, or else his place should not be at the head of affairs in this country. It is necessary in a country so situated as ours, and a matter of the highest importance, that men of the greatest moderation should manage our affairs. Mr. Speaker, it might not have been the proper time on the debate on the Address, as my right hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, said, and with our strong sympathies, to discuss this important question, but it has made a great noise in the Province of Quebec, and has stirred up the whole people; and we, the French Canadian Conservatives of the Province of Quebec, have been accused of being a priest-ridden population. Well, Sir, there are in every party, there are in every creed, there are in every nationality, fanatics; and there are also men who, though they are not fanatics, are sometimes carried away by their passions, or by the peculiar circumstances in which they are placed, and say things which they would not say under other circumstances; but certainly we could never have suspected that a Minister of the Crown would have made use of such expressions as the hon. gentleman has employed in the Province of Quebec. That hon. gentleman next sent forth a letter, with the aid of what we would call a *compère* in French, stating that his attack on Conservatives and on the Ultramontanes of Lower Canada—of the Province of Quebec—was not a religious attack, but that it was a political attack. Well, Sir, did Mr. Huntington say that the time had come