

Canadians feared the ascendancy of the Anglo-Saxon element in an assembly constituted for Legislative purposes, which might interfere with their cherished ideas respecting their language, religion, and laws. Consequently, a Federal Government was established, and their very first act carried through by their representatives in the Ministry at Ottawa, was to name a French Canadian Lieutenant Governor for the Province of Quebec, who was remarkable only for his steadfastness to the cause of the Roman Catholic Clergy ; for his extreme views in favor of the nationality of his fellow-countrymen ; and, it may be added, for his intolerance and bigotry. Neither intellectually, morally, nor socially, was he qualified to fill the first position in a British Colony, under the domination of the British Crown.

Besides the manifest injustice to Protestant interests in excluding other constituencies from the second schedule mentioned in the 80th section of the Act, to which allusion has already been made, its framers took especial care to comprise within the exclusive powers of the Provincial Legislatures, the right to legislate respecting the "solemnization of marriage in the Province," and "property and civil rights in the Province." Under these powers, as has before been observed, the foulest wrongs may be perpetrated, for when the right is conferred, it is only a question of expediency with them, when it should be exercised. There is nothing which is held so sacred in the eyes of all civilized communities as the right and liberty to govern their own marriage ceremonies, and to establish the personal status of their members. This has