

also hoped that the noise and dust thus created would *distract the public mind* and draw attention away from the *disgraceful, corrupt and extravagant record of the Tory Government*.

These attacks began immediately after the execution of Louis Riel, when the great meeting was held at Montreal to condemn the execution as cruel and unjustifiable. Sir John Macdonald, *so long as he had the support of the French*, never saw anything wrong or dangerous in the Catholic Church. Quite the contrary, *he and his organs were constant and fulsome in their adulation*. But the moment he found the French had deserted him he turned upon them and the Church with all the venom and ferocity of an implacable bigot. *It was the same with the Irish*, when he discovered they condemned his miserable, paltring, but vindictive opposition to Home Rule.

To publish all *The Mail* has said of insult, contumely, incendiary appeals, inflammatory and lying despatches would fill a large book. One must be content with a series of extracts.

The first signal of the new crusade was *The Mail's* threat to "*smash Confederation into its original fragments*," should the people of Quebec persist in their condemnation of Sir John Macdonald's Government. Furthermore, *The Mail* declared that, if necessary, Quebec would be *reconquered, and its treaty rights, relating to language, laws and religion, swept away*. These threats naturally aroused a feeling of intense indignation. There was every indication of a war of races, when the Liberal party declared, through its press, that the crisis could only be overcome by the removal of Sir John Macdonald and the men who had created all the trouble by misgovernment, from the control of the affairs of the country. The issue between parties is, therefore, with the Liberals: UNION, PEACE, TOLERATION; with the Tories: *permanent antagonism between the two peoples and disruption of Confederation*.

The Mail began by deprecating the importation of the question of religion into the dispute, although it had more than once on previous occasions assailed the Church in Ontario and Quebec. But about the close of the year 1885 it came out boldly as the avowed enemy of everything Catholic. On the 7th December, 1885, it opened the attack with a long article detailing the treaty and legal status of the French in Quebec, and representing the Church as *an odious, grinding tyranny*.

This article sets forth what it styled "the great and exceptionable privileges enjoyed by the Catholic Church in Quebec," and refer three to the rights enjoyed by the French people under the treaty of capitulation and subsequent legislation. Some of the rights enjoyed by the Catholic Church, and condemned by *The Mail* were as follows:—

"The Roman Catholic Church, the Church of the French-Canadian people, was established by the British Government in the possession of the full, free and unhindered exercise of her religion.

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