

event of the 16th November last to burst upon us with a view to arresting our attention, to opening our eyes, and to lead us to reunite all our forces to fight the common enemy. It is probably the last chance of safety which will be given us."

It is not, therefore, the execution of Riel alone which has produced the great national movement in the Province of Quebec. The murder of the 16th November was the last act of a tragic drama which has been played for twenty years to the detriment of Catholics and French-Canadians. You must have observed for several years past the uneasiness which has existed in the ministerial party. Members of Parliament have with difficulty been able to support their leaders. It has been necessary constantly to enforce party discipline. The representatives of the people were obliged to submit to that discipline if they did not want to be insulted and calumniated by a servile press. At length the bad and culpable administration of affairs in the North-West by our rulers filled the measure and it overflowed. This was war, war with its horrors and ruin; war with its millions of expenses and its victims. The blood of those who are devoted to their country and their compatriots has always possessed a magic power. It rarely flows without producing great results. In this instance it killed party spirit and awoke a patriotic sentiment, throughout Canada, the United States and even across the Atlantic. The eyes of the people were opened. They found out at last what Sir John was. They were given to understand that in supporting the present Premier, they were strengthening the hands of one of their worst enemies. They paused, and after due consideration, they came to the conclusion that they could not continue their allegiance to such a leader. I have now gone over the political history of the Dominion as regards Sir John Macdonald on one side and the Catholics and the French population of the Dominion on the other. I have shown how he acknowledged the devotion of our people towards himself during over thirty years. I have shown his conduct during the last twenty years, and his hostile acts when an opportunity occurred to show his gratitude both to Catholics and French

Canadians for the hearty support they had given him during the critical period when he was rejected by his own province.

The proposition I laid down at the beginning I have now fully proven by facts. Facts are stubborn things, and I need therefore add no comment. They speak for themselves. But I cannot omit stating that Sir John's character was perfectly well understood for some years by the great patriot of Lower Canada, Sir G. E. Cartier, who was in a position to appreciate him, discover his motives, and find out the end he aimed at.

So far back as 1872 the great Conservative leader of lower Canada had lost all confidence in the present leader of the Government by whom he had been deceived over and over again.

Let me read here the report of the last conversation a late minister of the Crown had with Cartier in 1872 before he left for England, believing as he did that he could never come back, but would die abroad. That conversation is reported by the ex-minister (whose name will be made public in due time) in the following letter which was published in *L'Etendard* of the 4th February, 1886:—

"I declare, then, that during the Session held at Ottawa in 1872, Sir George E. Cartier, having asked me to sit beside him at his place in the Chamber, said to me, and repeated to me at different times during that Session, that he had had a good deal to complain of in regard to the conduct of Sir John A. Macdonald, on his own account and on account of Lower Canada, when he endeavored to secure the passage in England of the Imperial Act establishing the confederation of the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He asked me if I remembered the causes and motives which had given rise to the demand for that confederation. 'You know,' said he to me, 'that the political leaders of each of these provinces met at Quebec in 1865 and came to an understanding as to the resolutions which should form the basis of the Imperial Act to be asked for and passed for that purpose. These resolutions were submitted to each one of the provincial legislatures with the understanding that they should be adopted *in toto* without any amendment, because they were to form the basis of an Imperial Act. This was said and repeated by Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues in the Chamber when these resolutions were discussed and adopted.

"Subsequently ministers from each of the provinces were sent as delegates to England to ask for and to supervise the Imperial Act