

any man whether he has a right to the freedom of conscientious worship in any religion he may choose? Who knows sufficiently to mark out the boundaries between any faith and another? Under the universe of God men can reach that eternal home beyond the skies, men can reach that abode of rest, by roads which neither priest or presbyter have marked out. (Loud and long continued applause.) In the name, sir, of freedom, in the name of religion, in the name of

#### The Highest Duties of Citizenship,

I protest against looking at the faith which any of our fellow-citizens profess and for any purpose appealing in that way in respect of their citizenship. I say, sir, that it is only by acting on these lines, by leaving men's religion as a matter entirely between them and their God, that we can be a solid and compact people and carry on our affairs as becomes a free people in a free community such as this. (Applause.)

Now, sir, I come to another phase of the question. I suppose it will be said that I have been shouting "No Popery" from this platform to-night. (Cries of "No, no.") I venture to say, and I appeal to every right-thinking man to say, if to-night I have said anything in any way offensive to any man in the Roman Catholic faith, or anything on account of which I cannot look him in the face to-morrow and call him my friend, as I have done before, and as I will do. (Loud applause.)

#### THE FRENCH SCHOOLS.

##### The Policy Which Ought to be Pursued Regarding Them.

Now, sir, there has been a great deal of discussion lately about French in the public schools. Perhaps before discussing the matter you will permit me to go back for a moment as I want to give you another illustration of the way in which my friend Mr. Mowat conducts his affairs upon the principle of truth and righteousness. (Applause and laughter.) He went up to the county of Lambton and there made a speech in which he told the electors that he did know how I was going to get on in the discussion that has taken place on this subject because I had favored Roman Catholics having to do with the selection of books to be used in the public schools. Let us see how he brought in his charge—in the first place—how he conducted this matter. This is what he read or referred to: "With respect to the educational question they would be prepared to formulate their views in a proper way before the session closed, and he hoped the Government would be prepared to meet them. As that question had

been referred to he might say that he recognized the right of Roman Catholics in this country to fair play. Anyone who would adopt another course in this country was not a true Canadian. He recognized the right of the Roman Catholic authorities to give their advice and to make enquiries with respect to what works were used in our high schools or schools in which their children might be taught," and then he stopped. There is a man looking about for the control of the public schools, and advocating aloud that the

#### Roman Catholics Should Dictate

what kind of books should be used in the public schools. But now let me read to you what follows, and what the *Globe* did not print: "But he recognized no more right for the Catholic church than for the Presbyterian, Anglican or any other church in the community, and their wishes should be no more respected than those of any other religious body of representatives making representations to the Education Department." Do you think that Mr. Mowat in that speech dealt fairly with me, or dealt fairly with the audience which he was addressing? I think not. (Applause.) Now, sir, to return to the question of French in the schools. What is the course which Mr. Mowat's Government have taken in this matter? I ask you can anybody say that the English language should not be the language of the country? I ask you, can any state school teach any other language but the English as the language of the schools? (Applause.) But we live in strange times, and extraordinary views are sometimes put forward, and one of these extraordinary views is that in this English-speaking province of Ontario the French language ought to be taught side by side with the English language, and that it would be cruel and intolerant not so to teach it. That is the doctrine which is preached to-day. But, even if a little while ago we might have been more liberal, I think that

#### Some Things that Have Been Transpiring

not far away from here ought to teach us how careful we ought to be about the establishment of a dangerous precedent. Mr. Mowat, by his alliance with Mr. Mercier, has strengthened himself with the old Liberals in the province of Quebec. Who can say that the Parti National has not its birth in the tomb of the Liberal party of Quebec? Now, what have we heard declared, not behind the doors, but upon the house-tops, at the meeting of the St. Jean Baptiste Society in the province of Quebec? Mr. Mercier there told the people of this country that the dream that they were going to build up a great Dominion of a