

wise studiously moderate should have created a sensation, and perhaps proved the foundation of the movement with which Mr. McCarthy has of late been so prominently identified.

While, however, the speaker, upon this occasion, departed from the general policy of the Conservative party, which had always been a consistent endeavour to cement all races and creeds in a common regard and allegiance for a united Dominion, he expressed a strong sympathy with the position assumed by the Government in the recent crisis in Quebec and amid the violent language and recrimination used by agitators in reference to the execution of Riel. "We know that petition after petition was sent in to Sir John asking for the pardon of Riel, threatening the Government with the loss of the French-Canadian support if he was not pardoned, while there was just one petition from the Province of Ontario asking for his execution. But Sir John was consistent to the last. He said, while the criminal shall have a fair trial, while he shall be allowed to appeal from court to court, until he has exhausted the subtleties of the law, while he shall have, before his execution, an investigation into his sanity to see if he is in the same condition that he was in before the trial, beyond that executive interference will not go, the law must take its course; and, for my own part, I believe numbers of my Liberal fellow-countrymen will go out of the ranks of their own party, and will forgive Sir John a multitude of sins which they suppose him guilty of and support him for this one deed."

Following this utterance came the memorable agitation of 1889, the indignation against the Jesuits' Estate Bill and its preposterous preamble, the practical assumption of leadership in the movement by Mr. McCarthy and his support of Col. O'Brien's motion in the House of Commons. It is not often that dramatic scenes are witnessed in that chamber, but no one who remembers the excitement of the time and the feeling which is always aroused by any question which creates racial or religious discussion will fail to see how the elements of a political drama were involved in the battle of thirteen against one hundred and eighty-eight. The storm passed over, the Government had been supported even more strongly than it could have expected, and Mr. D'Alton McCarthy had severed his official connection with the Conservative party, though continuing to give it an earnest support in all but one special line of action which he had marked out.