

MANITOBA.

BEFORE THE CONFLICT—1895.

Every Canadian reader conversant with the history of his own country will recognise the reference in these lines to the well-known "School Question" in Manitoban politics, covering the years 1895-1897.

A HOLY fire expands thy breast,
Its passion lights thy brow ;
Brave land ! If e'er thou wouldst be blest,
Keep to this firmness now !
Slaves are we not, to crouch and creep,
When evil powers are met ;
Ah, God be thanked ! the heart can leap—
We have a Country yet.

Life is not much, when manhood wanes
And self-respect is fled ;
There is many and many a sin that chains
The living to the dead.
In every heart, in each career,
Some conflict there must be ;
God gives to generous spirits here
The happiest destiny.