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law is unjust and should be amended. After all, people of British origin can scarcely help admiring the manliness of Mr. Martin, though it is said that his language gave great offence to some of his former colleagues and supporters in the provincial government. And we need not the less admire the peace-bringing words of the Liberal chieftain, which are quite natural to him, upon whom appears to have fallen the mantle of the late Sir John Macdonald as a winner of men.

If the solution of this delicate and difficult problem is really to depend on a question of etiquette, and if it be indeed true that the federal government did not approach the provincial authorities in a fair spirit before issuing the formal remedial order, it is to be regretted, perhaps, that we have for a premier a bluff, blunt, John Bull Englishman, who, Englishman like, simply stands upon the constitution, and makes no apology for invoking on behalf of a section of the community, aggrieved by an "unjust" and "tyrannical" law, the provisions of the constitution that have been, by the parliament of Canada, and of the empire, framed for their express protection. Some of us in Winnipeg had occasion to meet Sir Mackenzie Bowell recently, in the discussion of another matter, and much fault was found with him, even by his own political friends, because of his bluntness and plainness of speech. Perhaps it is a misfortune that he is deficient in the use of honied words and courtly phrases, but it is a failing that possibly has its compensations in a public man.

The question remains, however, how the grave difficulty presented by the school question is to be removed. We all desire to avoid federal interference. Peace can be had and justice can be done, through the intervention of the local legislature. How is that to be brought about? Mr. Laurier is not in power, unfortunately, and we cannot avail ourselves, therefore, of his kindly offices, to melt Mr. Greenway, by "appealing to his heart and soul." Mr. Greenway now knows, however, how earnestly Mr. Laurier, if in power, would plead with him for toleration and for justice. Will he not then give the same serious consideration to his leader's declaration as if the latter was actually in office, and will he not try to be, as Mr. Laurier pleads that he ought to be, just and fair and generous? Or must Sir Mackenzie Bowell first make an humble apology to the government of Manitoba, for allowing the Catholic minority to en-

ter the halls of parliament for redress, through the door provided by the constitution, in order that they may there plead their cause before the representatives of the nation? "We must have peace," says Mr. Laurier, and tens of thousands echo the sentiment. But who is to take the first step towards conciliation? Upon whom at present is the onus to move in that direction? This question is indeed a serious one, and it ought to receive careful and dispassionate consideration. Principal Grant appears to conclude that the onus is on the provincial government. At the same time he is of the opinion that the remedial order is the great stumbling block in the way. If that be indeed true, it ought to be removed. But let us make sure of our ground and see that the responsibility is put upon the shoulders that ought to bear it.

How far the action of the Dominion government, hitherto, has really been of a high-handed character, and how far the government of Manitoba has just ground of complaint in this regard, and can plead that action as a justification for refusing any consideration of a settlement, can not, of course, be satisfactorily answered without a review of the events that preceded the issue of the order. With your leave I will, in another letter, refer to some of these events.

JAMES FISHER.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir,—In a former letter I ventured to express the opinion that the very strong opposition offered by the majority in Manitoba, and by their sympathisers in other provinces, to the granting of concessions acceptable to the minority, arose more from a repugnance to its being done as a result of federal intervention, than from any decided objection to making such concessions on principle. And I quoted the utterances of Mr. Laurier, Principal Grant, Mr. Joseph Martin and others in support of that view. I quoted especially the opinion of Mr. Laurier, that the federal government, because it issued the remedial order without first approaching the government of the province, in a conciliatory spirit, with "the sunny ways of patriotism," and with "an appeal to the hearts and souls" of the Manitoba ministers, were mainly responsible for the question being still unsettled.

It cannot, I think, be denied, that, ever since the issue of that order, the action of