

hon. member was sanctioned, then we should see the sad spectacle of different religious sects in this country coming forward, embodying their respective feelings on this vexed question. The hon. member had not even assumed to discuss even the merits of the question—to go into details, and show that it was worthy of the support of the House. Yes, he was calling upon the House to express a decided opinion on a question respecting which it had only a general idea. There could only be one object in such a motion, and that was, to create an ill-feeling between the Protestants and Catholics, to bring discord into this now happy country. It was quite obvious that if the cause of the course of the hon. member was legitimate, then it would be within the province of the Legislature to deal with the Reform Bill, and other questions of equal importance affecting Great Britain. On the same principle, the House would be found interfering in the affairs of Spain, and referring to her ecclesiastical establishments. Nay more, the Parliament of the Dominion, with equal justice, might be called upon to give a strong expression of sentiment respecting separate schools, or church endowing, or other matter of interest to the people of Lower Canada. In whatsoever light he viewed the question, he could not avoid seeing the impropriety of the motion brought forward by the hon. member for Chateauguay, and was convinced that the House would deal with it promptly and effectually, so as to prevent the introduction of similar resolutions in the future. In conclusion, he would move the previous question in amendment to the motion before the House."

Now, Sir, I maintain that the hon. gentleman was on that occasion mistaken as to the real feelings and sentiments of the great majority of the Canadian people. I believe that, so far from that motion being, as the hon. gentleman said, calculated to excite discord, heart-burnings and religious difficulties, we would have all agreed—had he but seen the question in another light—in favor of that solution of that question, just as we had, in the old Province of Canada, lively though were the feelings of religious difference in that old Province, when we settled a somewhat similar question. I refer, Sir, to this statement, because I wish to express the hope that in the interval between 1869 and 1882, the hon. gentleman has advanced in his views, has observed the current of events, and that he will now be disposed to take a different line, and instead of arguing on the precedent which he himself created by moving the previous question on that occasion, which he stated would be an effectual barrier to similar resolutions in the future, he may be disposed to admit our right to tender some advice on this occasion, and give his support to the motion before the House. I say we have an interest, as a part of the great Empire—as sharers in its prosperity, as sharers in its shame; we have an interest in everything which will tend to develop the strength and the unity of that Empire; we have an interest in every great and important question affecting the general constitution and organization of the Empire at large. Nobody can doubt that, through chaos and without any formal system, the gradual tendency of the constitution of the Empire has been more and more—perhaps through drifting, perhaps otherwise—towards the adoption of the federative form. We ourselves are the outcrop of that idea. Our pre-

sent position is due to its partial, unymmetrical, unreasoned, but practical development; and I say, Sir, we must consider that, without power effectually to interfere, without power of legislation, we yet have a right, as

#### MEMBERS OF THE EMPIRE,

to express an opinion upon this subject. As a part of the Empire largely peopled by old countrymen—by Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen—we have a deep interest in a question which must materially affect the prosperity and happiness of our countrymen in the old land. As a country wanting immigrants, as the hon. gentleman has said, we have a material interest of a very great degree. We all know where the Irish immigration goes; we all know that those who cross the sea and land upon the shores of America, go almost wholly, particularly those of the Roman Catholic faith, to the United States instead of to Canada; we know that our share of the Irish immigration is insignificant, and that our share of Irish Roman Catholic immigration is but a very small proportion in these latter days of even our share of Irish immigration. We know, on the other hand, that enormous numbers of that people have gone to the United States. When I said two years ago that that was due largely to the difficulties to which I referred, and hoped that a better feeling might be engendered by remedial measures

#### APPLIED TO THE STATE OF IRELAND

hon. gentlemen opposite did not seem to sympathize with that remark. I was glad to hear the hon. gentleman repeat it to-day, and I hope it has become, to a large extent, the accepted sentiment of the people of this country. We are interested materially in another sense in this question. We and our neighbors have a common frontier of 3,000 miles long. That country is, and must always be, a country in our cordial and friendly relations with which, must lie a great part of our own prosperity; and no man can doubt that the existence of the Irish question is a main feature of the difficulties between the United Kingdom and the United States, and cannot but react most unfavorably upon us. We recollect what happened in former days; we recollect when our peace was broken, our territory invaded more than once, expense was incurred and blood shed; we recollect that such a state of things existed in the United States, that redress, whether by expression of regret or by pecuniary compensation, was absolutely denied, on the score, I presume, that the state of feeling in that country rendered it impossible for any such concession to be made. If you look at some of the figures of the recent Census, you will see how directly and indirectly—directly, as wanting immigrants ourselves, indirectly as those with whom the people of the United States should be

#### ON FRIENDLY TERMS—

we are interested in this question. Take the