

to it. It is evident, however, that it was intended to inaugurate a new departure in the politics of the Province. Mr. Huntington's reply to me occupied an hour in the delivery. It dealt with general questions of public policy, and was a defence of the government of which he is a member, against the charges on which I had ventured to arraign them. That defence, certainly, possessed an interest beyond the meeting to which it was addressed. And yet, although he was accompanied by a reporter, not a word of the speech, except the introductory passages which are now so famous, was reported. That fact, with the letter you have now given to the public, makes it evident, as I have said, that a new departure in politics has been resolved upon, and that a new ground of division, a purely religious one, is to be urged upon the people of the Province of Quebec. And this being the fact, I hope you will permit me to examine the reasons which prompt you to urge the "disruption of our former party alliances" and the union of Protestant-Conservatives with those whom you describe as "the so-called Liberal-Catholics."

If the position of the Protestants in this Province, is at this moment a hazardous one, as you almost assert, there is no public man upon whom the responsibility of that position rests more heavily than upon yourself. When the federal union of the Provinces took place, and I believe you have the honor of having been among the earliest of our public men to urge that union on the floor of Parliament, you were specially charged with the duty of protecting the interests for the future of the religious minority of the Province. In the performance of that duty, as you