

Another prominent and influential Catholic Liberal wrote (December 11th):

"As to the school question, I may in a few words sum up the whole case. The Liberals should, I think, have insisted upon getting for our people a system similar to that prevailing in Ontario. . . . I cannot express the extent of my contempt of the Tories for the manner in which they acted from start to finish. It was a policy of delay, hypocrisy and political chicanery. If Tupper had got into power we would be further than ever from a settlement, as some other scheme of postponement would be devised. He has no love for us—no sympathy for our cause in his heart. He went to the country with a cry in our favor, thinking he could capture Quebec and wheel into line the Orange hosts of Ontario. Once in power the juggling would, as I said, begin over again."

A priest of Liberal traditions wrote, on December 12th:

"Personally, I fully believe that party advantage alone prevented Laurier from accepting Tupper's Remedial Bill; that he has made the school question a stalking-horse under cover of which to get into power; and that, now he is Premier, he will accept anything that will stamp out the agitation.

"The Manitoba Catholics are still suffering injustice, and the question will never be definitely settled until that injustice is *fully* repaired."

VI. *The Mission of Mgr. Merry del Val.*

It is said that Pope Pius the Ninth wanted to know: "What is the matter with you in Canada? You give me more anxiety than any other country." About Popes, no doubt, foolish stories are told. This story, however, need not be set down as such, seeing that, if not the truth of history, it has in it, at least, the poetic truth of much care in all the churches being upon the Pope.

The present Holy Father sent Mgr. del Val to investigate the Manitoba school question. This prelate was well received publicly, except, perhaps, by the vulgar Puritan press. Speaking fluently English and French, as well as the Spanish of his father's family, and having been brought up in England when his father was a representative of Spain, the Pope's ambassador had power over the material at hand, and won confidence in his good-will, prudence and sympathy. His mission certainly calmed the public mind. Upon the results of this mission and investigation the decision and counsel of the Holy Father has been given.

On hearing a report of a hostile decision, the Manitoba Attorney-General said, in December last: "It seems remarkable, but the antagonism of the minority to the public-schools system has apparently rather increased than diminished since the settlement."

The antagonism is "remarkable," if not in the speaker's sense. The school question is dead only as long as the minority does not stir. That is the net result. What is it O'Connell said? Some-