

He has read treatises on language, especially as it affects modern thought ; and it is rather—I do not like to say it, I do not like to say that he did not understand it, because it would be impolite, and I could not be impolite—but I will say this, that he is so busy a man that he has no time to inform himself properly, and perhaps he is too much of a *nisi prius* advocate to be accurate, and too much of a mere lawyer to be a statesman. (Great laughter and cheers.) But remember the two propositions that he lays down. The first proposition is, that language makes the race and the nation ; and as you may have seen in his speech delivered at Ottawa, he lays down the proposition that with diversity of language to make a nation is impossible. Now, the important thing about that proposition is this: It is sent broadcast into ignorant ears, and if that last proposition is true we may despair of Canada. (Hear, hear, from Sir John Macdonald.) That is the important thing about these hurried deductions from superficial studies. My hon. friend, in his Ottawa speech and in the speech delivered in the House, also, talks about making this a British colony. Sir, is not this a British colony ? Let us be just. Why is it a British colony ? It is so because of that very Lower Canadian French race that seems to act like a red rag on a bull on the mind of my hon. friend ; for we know this very well, that there was a time in the history of Canada when that race had just passed over to the British flag, when temptations were held out to them to join the thirteen colonies, and if they had not been true to their new-found allegiance, if their loyalty had not been impregnable against the seductions of Franklin and others, we would have had no British colony here to-day. (Cheers.) Let us be just, if my hon. friend cannot be generous. I will say this, because I want to help my hon. friend. My hon. friend does not profess, he says,

to be a very devout man, but still he complains bitterly that the Roman Catholic Church is tolerated in a manner in this country that our laws hardly permit. That is his language, addressed to ignorant and passionate ears. I have the documents here if it is dared to be questioned. That, I say, is the language addressed by the hon. gentleman to ignorant and passionate ears. In these speeches, history is gone over, it is mourned over that certain things were not done in the past, and it is mourned that certain things were not done when the French Canadians numbered only 60,000. But does any man in his senses suppose that, if they had not been dealt with with that wisdom, moderation and generosity that England has dealt out to all races with which she has come in contact in building up her colonial Empire, we should have a British colony here to-day ? I want to help my hon. friend. In the intervals of a busy life he is undertaking a crusade against a million and a half of people ; because it is a crusade, and he is undertaking a crusade against the Catholic Church. Nobody supposes that I have any leaning to that church. I am a Radical on religious subjects—that is to say, I am a very low English Churchman.

Some Hon. Members. Oh ! Oh !

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am addressing a lawyer mainly, and I am addressing a legislative assembly, and everybody knows that, according to the old Roman law, I can become an English churchman by adoption ; so I have become one by adoption. I want to help my hon. friend, because I have devoted some time to the study of history. I tell him that no assault from outside, no matter how great, no catapults that have been brought against that church from outside have ever done it the least harm. The only harm that ever came to that church has been from volcanic eruptions from