

will cripple her so that she shall grow a sickly child without nerve or ambition. The future of Quebec is of intense interest to us all. She is part of our country. We must not be accused of invading territory not ours when we demand of her that she come in line with modern institutions and civilization and march with us to national greatness. It is said that because of Treaties and Imperial legislation Quebec is doomed to the destiny indicated. Are treaties and legislation so sacred that, if they are unjust and arbitrary, and obstacles to progress, they cannot and must not be touched? Are we to suffer for all time because of the unwisdom of our ancestry? Have we no powers to break fetters with which they have bound us? The tithing and taxing powers which the Church possesses makes her mistress of Quebec. Those who know the vastness and the power of the machinery of the Romish Church know the use she will make of the powers given her by legislation. By the pressure she can bring to bear upon the faithful, through her power of withholding absolution and imposing penance, she can command an enormous wealth. With Quebec as a basis of operations and as an unfailing resource for money she can extend her convents and other institutions to every corner of the Dominion. We ask all liberal-minded Roman Catholics as well as Protestants whether this is a proper condition of things. Is it justice that so much of our fair Dominion should be thus completely under the control of the Roman Catholic or any other church? We want our fellow citizens of the Roman Catholic Faith to be placed upon an equality with ourselves in this regard. We do not desire them to part with anything we are not ready to give up. We wish for no immunities or privileges we are not willing to concede to them. We have no desire to place them under any disabilities. Our policy must be attractive and fair, a policy that shall commend itself to liberal-minded men in the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches, a policy that shall be just and impartial.

We have seen that hitherto, we have failed to unite our people in a national, patriotic feeling. Confederation has failed. We believe the union can be effected. It must be done by a levelling process, by removing all causes of irritation and of jealousy. The difference in language is not the greatest difficulty with which we have to deal. Of late, in Quebec and in Ontario there have been manifestations of religious antipathies and uneasiness at what is believed to be an undue deference to the Roman Catholic Church. We believe this dissatisfaction is well grounded, and at the same time that it endangers the peace