

"A mon sens, les biens d'Eglise doivent être comparés, dans une certaine mesure, aux propriétés des gouvernements monarchiques.

"Qui a la propriété absolue de ses biens ? Le Gouvernement, n'est-ce pas ?

"Je soumets donc, quoique la question soit difficile à décider, et quelque étrange que paraisse cette opinion, que *la propriété absolue de ces biens* réside en la personne du chef d'Eglise comme représentant de Dieu." . . .

"Le juge :—Vous dites donc que le cimetière appartient à l'Evêque ?

"M. Trudel :—Comme représentant l'autorité supérieure ecclésiastique. De même que dans une monarchie absolue les biens de l'Etat sont censés être la propriété du roi, *qui possède dans ses provinces par ses lieutenants.*"

I am not dealing with any mere theoretical question of theology, and have no desire to do so ; I am merely citing from a solemn legal argument of claimants relative to the ownership of the very cemetery in question in this article. My argument, however, does not rest on any distinction as to whether the property is in a religious organization independent of all the Canadian people or an organization of the Canadian people. I take ground against all expropriations for denominational cemeteries. I do not claim for one religion or religious body what I would not grant to another.

The strongest authority cited by Mr. Jetté in favour of expropriation, and in my opinion the only one, was the precedent in the case of the Mount Royal Cemetery, and the unfairness of denying to one what was allowed to another. But this authority does not rest upon principle. It was wrong in both cases, and the sooner we cease from a wrong course the better ; and no better time for gracefully doing so could present itself to a Legislature mainly composed of Roman Catholics, than when application for a Roman Catholic cemetery was before them. They did not do so, and it is hard to suppose they will oppose such expropriation in any other cases that may come before them, although it is to be hoped they will, no matter who may be the applicant.

The fact is, all such expropriation is not only wrong in principle and without authority, but it is to allow particular religious bodies and organizations to push their domain and interference beyond the legitimate field of their authority into a field from which they have been excluded in whole or in great part by national or public authority in both the great civilized nations to which we owe our origin and our laws.