

length. But, as for the first, I will say for myself, as a Liberal of the province of Quebec and a Roman Catholic, I can speak for the people of Quebec as well as can the hon. member for Beauharnois—and, I think, much better—and I can say that the Catholics of Quebec have not been deceived. We do not say that the settlement achieved by the right hon. Premier and his colleagues is a full and complete settlement. When we consider that such a question as the Manitoba school question had been treated on most unsound principles for five years, had been so handled as to develop racial and religious passions, we could not expect it to be settled altogether satisfactorily in the first instance. The Government coming into power had to settle the question so as to do substantial justice to everybody, and not deceive anybody, and this has been achieved. I do not want to enter again upon the quarrels of the past. I think we have already had too many divisions between the two parties on this question. I do not pretend that all the members of the Conservative party were deceitful in their policy on this question. As to the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), I, a young man, do not wish to be understood as having said that he had pursued a deceitful course in this matter. I believe the hon. leader of the Opposition and some members of his party were sincere. But I believe that, by reason of the elements in his own party in different provinces of the Dominion, the hon. gentleman could not possibly have settled this question. If the hon. gentleman were not still in political life, I think that he, as well as Sir Mackenzie Bowell, could tell, with regard to this question, that it was impossible for him to achieve success, because he was in the midst of a nest of traitors. Supposing even that the Conservative party had been returned to power, and had sought to carry out their policy of putting into force remedial legislation, I believe that with the elements in their own party, and with the condition of public sentiment in the country, they could not have settled the school question, even after the Remedial Bill was passed. But these are things of the past, and we must face the question as it stands to-day. The first duty of the present Government on coming into power was to calm national and religious prejudices, before they attempted to do anything else—and in that they succeeded. There was also one special question to be considered, and that was the situation of the Catholic Liberals of the province of Quebec. The leader of the Liberal party, because of his attitude upon this question, had been represented in the province of Quebec as a traitor to his race and religion. Sir, I do not intend to bring up in this Chamber difficulties that arose between the Catholic clergy and the Liberals of the province of Quebec. This is no place to discuss such questions. This is not the place

to discuss religious questions at all, and especially such religious questions as interests only the laymen and clergy of one particular faith. Sir, we have a right, as British subjects, to go where we like to settle matters of our own church. In saying that, I know I have not only the approval of Catholics but of independent Protestants in this House who wish this country to be free to everybody, of whatever creed or nationality. During long debates in this House we often boast about our country, about its size, its resources and its splendid growth. Everything we say should convince us that there is room for all kinds of people, but there is no room for national prejudices, no room for narrow views or for that kind of politics that the hon. member for West York has tried to impose on this House and this country for many years, and that, misled, I am sorry to say, by the example of the hon. member for Beauharnois, he has tried to impose on us again. The conduct of the hon. member for Beauharnois, the stand he has taken upon the question, would make me ashamed of my province, but that I know that the feelings expressed by him are not the feelings of the people in the province of Quebec.

Sir, I do not often trouble this House with the local politics of Quebec, but I think I may say that the province of Quebec is just as liberal and just as British as any other province in the Dominion of Canada, and we intend to keep her so. We say that in this matter the province of Quebec has not been deceived, and her people have given proofs of it time after time since the general elections. I will not attempt to answer the ridiculous accusation that the Catholic Liberals of the House of Commons and of the Senate have tried to deceive the Pope. The hon. member for Beauharnois spoke of the Pope in such a way as to please the member for West York (Mr. Wallace), but he must not think that the members of this House are so ignorant or so prejudiced as not to know better the character of Pope Leo XIII. Many Protestant countries are proud to entertain cordial relations with the Pope. There are good Protestants in this House, and there are also good Catholics, but I do not think there is a Protestant in this House that would accuse Bismarck, the late Iron Chancellor of Germany, of having betrayed the Protestant interests of Germany in favour of the Catholic minority of that Empire. When a dispute arose between Germany and the Kingdom of Spain upon a point of deep interest to the German people, to whom did Prince Bismarck apply to obtain a settlement of the question? He applied to Pope Leo XIII, and when judgment was rendered against Germany in favour of Spain, did you hear the official press of Germany crying out against the decision, and endeavouring to excite the feelings of the Protestants against the Holy See because the decision had been