

the sum of \$400,000; but, inasmuch as the jealousy of the Protestants would thereby be certainly aroused, the legislature at the same time provided that a sum of \$60,000 should be paid over to the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, which amount (with a small increase afterwards made) was to the Jesuit grant, in the same proportion as was the Protestant to the Catholic population. This act was passed without a dissentient vote, and no Protestant member of the house ventured to attack it upon the grounds afterwards so violently put forward.

Although the Province of Quebec was satisfied with the act, a few persons in the province of Ontario formed a society which they chose to call, "The Equal Rights Association." In their constitution they declared:

"That this convention desires to record its conviction that the incorporation of the Jesuits, and the passing of the act respecting the settlement of the Jesuits' Estates, by the Legislature of the Province of Quebec; the course of the government of the Dominion in leaving these acts to their operation; and finally the rejection, by an immense majority, of the resolution moved in the House of Commons for the disallowance of the last-mentioned act, have brought forcibly home to Canadians the controlling influences which Ultramontaniam has obtained amongst us, and the urgent need of organizing for the defence of our civil and religious liberties; and this meeting of delegates elected from, and representing all, parts of the Province of Ontario, with the assistance of representatives from other provinces, heartily approves of the calling of this convention for the furthering of this great end."

The Dominion Government refused to disallow the act, and forthwith, the "sleepy Protestants of Quebec" (as they were styled by an Ontario enthusiast) prepared petitions by way of appeal to the Governor-General. These were approved and fostered by the Equal Rights Association, one of its resolutions declaring that:

"This convention approves of the action of the Toronto Citizens' Committee and others, in circulating and promoting the petitions to his Excellency, the Governor-General, against the Jesuits' Estate Act, and pledges itself to promote and further, in every way, the signature and presentation of petitions against the said act."

There being some doubt as to whether the Governor-General would entertain the appeal the association issued an address in which was the following paragraph:

"The right of appeal to the Governor-General which minorities at present have must remain; nay the entire Dominion is the proper guarantee for equality of dealing on the part of the provinces with the adherents of the various churches, and nothing beyond this should be sought."

The government determined to hear the petitions, and appointed the 15th of October, 1889, for the argument. Meanwhile, however, the Quebec petitioners obtained some slight modification of