

of the bishop of Rome, who is an alien potentate and not subject to British law, to own property in Canada, and ignores the law of escheat out of deference to canon law. In defence of this measure, a most significant statement was made by Sir John Thompson, the law adviser of the government, to the effect that under the British North America Act any province may repeal any existing law to the contrary, and establish any church with special privileges.

In view of these and other similar doings, is it any wonder that the Pope has declared the city of Quebec to be "the metropolis of the Roman Catholic Church in America"?

Time will not allow of more than reference to the mighty influence which Romanism, through the united efforts of its clergy, has on the politics, both of the Dominion and of the several provinces, allying itself, as it does, with one or other party, as the interests of the church demand, and, through the Catholic vote, compelling our legislators to allow unjust privileges everywhere to the Roman Catholic community. The Roman Catholic Church knows no party, and cares for none, except as she can use it to further her own ends. The danger from this is great.

Let me now speak of the work which the churches are doing among our French-Canadian brethren.

THE FIELD TO BE OCCUPIED

is large and widely extended. At the close of last century there were not in Canada more than eighty thousand colonists of French origin, nearly all intensely Roman Catholic. These have increased with great rapidity, so that now they number more than two millions and a quarter. In their original home, the Province of Quebec, they constitute three-fourths of the population, and have absorbed or displaced a large number of the English Protestant settlers. In ever-increasing numbers they are passing over to the New England and New York States, have sent colonies into the Western States, and are forming new settlements along the line of railway to the north of Ontario and in the Northwest Territories. The field for French mission work is thus a wide one, embracing all the older provinces of Canada, and many places to the south of the American line, the Province of Manitoba, the half-breed settlement in the fertile valleys of the Red River, Assiniboia, and Saskatchewan, where a considerable population has grown up who speak French, and are Roman Catholics.