

on their scheme by prosecuting a minority, even in such a remote territory as the North-West? We are not in the same condition of things in which we were some years ago. Modern science has given new wings to political thought; every incident that occurs in Canada, of any importance, is known to-morrow as far as Cape Colony and in the remote regions of India; and I appeal to Imperial Federalists, who might be tempted to support the Bill before the House, not to injure their own cause, and to remember that all men interested and responsible for the future of the Queen's dominion will condemn them for entering into an agitation which would tend to destroy the loyalty of a portion of Her Majesty's subjects. These gentlemen pose as the representatives of Ontario and pretend to speak the voice of Ontario in protest against the use of the French language in Canada. I venture to tell them that they do not represent Ontario in this matter, that they do not speak the voice of Ontario in this agitation. The true voice of Ontario may still be heard in the echoes of that splendid demonstration made in December, 1884, in Toronto, in honor of Sir John A. Macdonald. It was my good fortune to be present at that grand and imposing reunion of the forces of the great Conservative party. I shall never forget the ovation given to the Old Chief when he entered the hall where five thousand voices acclaimed him with enthusiastic cheers. I shall never forget the warm, the cordial reception given to my hon. friends the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Militia, and to myself. It was my first visit to Toronto and the impression I received, an impression which will never be effaced from my memory, was that the bond of friendship, nay, the bond of affection, that linked together the two great races of this Confederation, would resist any attack which interest, jealousy or prejudice might direct against it. It was, it is true, a political demonstration, but it had a great character beyond that, which proved that different races, and different creeds, and different nationalities, might unite and work together in the best manner for the progress of our common country. This was the voice of Ontario, and I think it would be the voice of Ontario still. I say to the supporters, if there are any in Ontario, of the measure of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), that I believe the voice of Ontario would be still the same if the right hon. the leader of the House would appeal, on the same generous principles, to the same fair-minded population of Ontario to-day. Sir, I protest against that agitation, I protest against that plan of campaign as suggested in the speeches of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), and indicated here and outside by the speeches of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). I do not quote their expressions here. They are too ugly for me to quote them or, at all events, they are too provoking. It is not for us here to talk about opening a free road through the St. Lawrence for the Anglo-Saxon to pass to the conquest of the world. If that course is to be persisted in, Sir, I cannot qualify it in any other words, that if it is a political game it is a dangerous mistake, and if it is a determined and premeditated movement to be earnestly carried on, it is a criminal attack against the "peace, order and good government of the country." Sir, I hope that the hon. gentlemen will

pause before venturing any further in the dark and dangerous path they have entered into. They will look in the past and around them, and they will see written on the walls the fate which awaits them. All public men who have tried to build up a political platform of such materials as prejudices and fanaticism have found out that the beams and rafters of their building did not long resist the action of time and the pressure of common sense; they went down with the wreck, helpless and crippled, giving to the world a cruel lesson as to the inevitable fate of those who would attempt to imitate their example. Sir, I appeal to the higher instincts, to the nobler feelings of those who sincerely wish the consolidation of these British possessions, and whom the chances of politics do not affect. I ask them to think calmly of all this. They must know how dangerous are the elements which are brought into contact in the agitation which is carried on. They may be in earnest in believing that the strong currents thus put in motion will produce great and good results. Let them not forget that in dealing with these questions of race, nationality and religion they are dealing with the great electric currents of national life. Guide and govern these currents wisely, and you may draw from their united influences power and light and all the beneficent effects of the natural forces with which Providence has provided you. Misguide and misgovern them—use them with ignorance, recklessness, or malice,—and you may draw down on your heads unknown and uncounted disasters, ruin to individuals, confusion to communities, and disaster to the State. Sir, I agree with the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), I am not ready to accept the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beausoleil), though I am in accord with the principles of it, but I cannot find too strong language to express my repudiation of the principles, the form, the surroundings of the measure submitted. The Bill of the hon. member for North Simcoe is opposed to his own political record, principles and career. He supported with intelligence and vigor the policy of unity of action and harmony of thought of the different races which form this Dominion, irrespective of creed or language. He was present when the Acts giving a constitution to the North-West Territories were initiated, revised and passed, and he gave his acquiescence to that legislation. The Bill is opposed to the policy that has prevailed in Canada, of protecting the rights of minorities in the schools, in the Legislatures, in the Senate. It is opposed to the law of the land, which was approved by two Administrations and three Parliaments. It is opposed to the spirit of British legislation, which, in the case of Manitoba, provided a perpetual guarantee to the minority in regard to schools and language, and, in the case of any new Province hereafter created in the Territories, provided a guarantee of stability to the constitution given to it at the time of its creation. It is opposed to the general policy of the modern British Empire, which, in India, in Manitoba, in Cape Colony, respects the right of the people of different origin to have the legal and legislative use of their own language. It is opposed to the plainest facts of science, which prove that race is stronger than language, as may be seen in the case of the Irish and the Scotch, the German-

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