

affected a large portion of the population of that Province; with our Roman Catholic fellow subjects it was a Bill that compelled these people to contribute to a system of education that they could not conscientiously avail themselves of. It was a Bill that affected not merely one individual, as the Streams' Bill did, but a large class of the population; it was a Bill that affected a large class of people, and which they contended violated, if not their legal, at least their equitable rights. Yet the hon. gentleman allows that Bill to pass into law. It came before him for examination; it was strongly protested against. He had a grand opportunity of dealing fairly and justly with that class of the community who thought they were wronged by that legislation. Now, it is well to remind the hon. gentleman of these things, because I know that in the multiplicity of his avocation, he cannot be expected to go back on the records of fifteen years. What did he say in his report of the 20th January, 1872:

"The Provincial Legislature has exclusive powers to make laws in relation to education. It may be that the Act in question may act unfavorably on the Catholics or other religious denominations, and if so it is for such religious bodies to appeal to the Provincial Legislature which has the sole power to grant redress."

And he is of opinion that no other course is open to the Dominion Government than to allow the Act to go into operation. The hon. gentleman's opinion is that if there is anything objectionable in the Bill, the remedy is not to be obtained from the Dominion Government or the Dominion Parliament, but from the Local Legislature, from the hon. gentlemen who controlled the destinies of the Province for the time being. The remedy is not to be sought from the Minister of Justice, but from the Local Legislature. Now, in connection with this subject I wish to read a very forcible State paper, published by the Executive Council of New Brunswick, valuable as a solemn protest against any proposed interference by the Dominion Parliament or the Dominion Government with the rights of the Province to deal with questions within the competence of the Legislature. That paper said:

"The assumption by the Provincial Legislature and Government of Canada of the right to seek the imposition of further limitations of the powers of the Provincial Parliaments is subversive of the federal character of the Union, tending to the destruction of the powers and independence of the provincial law to the centralization of all power in the Parliament of Canada."

"The people of New Brunswick cannot, and will not, surrender their rights of self government within the limits of the Constitution."

Sir, I admire the pluck of the Executive of New Brunswick. I admire the courage and the patriotism that impelled them to send to the Dominion Government this