

STRUGGLES FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

they were encouraging the introduction of Separate Schools and aiding ecclesiastical corporations at the dictation of their French Canadian colleagues and supporters.

The Tory and Reform wings of the Opposition, as will be observed, were wide asunder as the poles in their views on all the great political questions then dividing public opinion. Neither had they anything in common personally or socially. Nevertheless, the old adage that politics makes strange bed-fellows was again exemplified, and for a considerable time Mr. Brown and Sir Allan McNab, though preserving separate camps, acted more or less together in opposing the Hincks-Morin Ministry, both in Parliament and throughout the country. This subjected the latter to a somewhat galling cross-fire, and brought about a political situation decidedly singular and interesting.

The position of public affairs was by no means satisfactory. Twelve years had elapsed since the union between Upper and Lower Canada, and the future was not unclouded. As we have seen, there was still a formidable array of complicated political questions before Parliament pressing for settlement. They profoundly stirred all classes of the people, for they involved not only the questions of a State Church and religious equality, but others which might easily fan into flame the racial and religious susceptibilities of the British majority in the West or the French majority in the East.

How such difficult legislation could be peacefully