

with the object of overthrowing the Conservative Government of Quebec and of dividing that of Ottawa." Evidently, when Mr. Trudel took it into his head to found a journal, he took care to produce a thrill in the religious chord, and it was not in the name of politics that he appealed to the clergy. He gave a front place to certain great principles. He dealt on the importance of intensely Catholic minds having a trustworthy organ of their own. And the prospectus number of *L'Etendard* may be taken as evidence of the fact. From this point of view the letter of Mr. Prendergast to Mr. Mackay has a great importance: it gives the note which has been sounded over and over again. This letter bears the date of the 22nd of August, 1882, that is to say, in the very travail of creation. Shareholders were then in demand, and Mr. Prendergast, who asks Mr. Mackay for money to found a paper in Montreal, styles himself in *L'Etendard*, "Prendergast et Cie., editeurs et propriétaires." There is, accordingly, no room for doubt: it is the present directorate of *L'Etendard* that furnished to its public the reasons and motives for which the latter was to give money to Messrs. Trudel and Prendergast. The reasons are as follows:—

"For a certain number of years the Catholic clergy, and in general the Catholics of the Province of Quebec, have felt profoundly the want of a daily journal which should have for its chief object the promotion of Catholic interests. The pretended Catholic journals now in existence are invariably devoted, in the first place, to their political parties, and, after that, to personal interests. The natural consequence is that when it becomes necessary to instruct the population on important religious and political questions, the daily journals now in existence often refuse to do so, on the ground that such a course would injure the interests of party or come in conflict with personal opinions. Thus in 1877, at the time of the Orange troubles, we saw the Protestant press forming a coalition against us, while the pretended Catholic journals treated the question from a political point of view and according to party interests.

"I have just cited only a single instance, but there are several others where an independent Catholic journal could have rendered eminent services.

"Urged by this necessity, which has been long felt, supported by numerous friends among the clergy, and, moreover, acting in conformity with the desire clearly expressed by Pius the Ninth and Leo the Thirteenth, that the press should insist upon and defend the rights of the Church, a group of distinguished Catholics are now endeavoring to raise a subscription for the foundation of a journal devoted to Catholic interests and absolutely independent of party or personal in-

terests. To realize the project a capital of \$100,000 would be necessary, and our friends are far from being rich."

In the words just quoted the case is well put, and in order that there might be no doubt, *L'Etendard* of the 13th of August endorses the above letter by saying:—

"There is but one expression as to the value of the letter: 'That's just the thing.' 'It is the pure and simple truth.' 'It is exactly what we would have written ourselves.' Mr. Prendergast has admirably summed up what the public thinks and feels on the matter. \* \* Who would venture to deny that the letter in question is only a translation of the whole independent Conservative press, at the time when it was written?"

Before examining the consequences of such an appeal, let us examine the facts. Do the Catholics of the Province of Quebec experience the want of a daily journal? [No, no.] The Episcopate answered the question in a letter addressed to the clergy of the diocese of St. Hyacinthe, denouncing the idea of founding a religious journal. This important document informed us that the Bishop of the diocese in which the future journal was to be published was himself far from desiring it. Mr. Prendergast is particularly unfortunate in the example that he cites of the affair of the Orangemen. A positive man who wished to have a brief characterization of that assertion would be forced to cry out, "That is a lie of the first water." Who does not know that the two great Conservative organs, *La Minerve* and *Le Monde*, were inflexible on the Orange question? They even quarreled with their comrade in arms, the *GAZETTE* of Montreal; they gave their approval and encouragement to Mayor Beaudry, and, in fact, put themselves at the head of the movement which prevented the demonstration. The *Minerve* never inquired whether it was striking friends or foes in politics. It struck right and left. [Hear, hear.] On the other hand is it not pitiable to find a public man, a Senator like Mr. Trudel, thus coolly and deliberately, in the hope of carrying an election, making appeals to the prejudices of race and religion. Now what are

#### THE CONSEQUENCES OF A PROPAGANDA

based on the letter of Mr. Prendergast? What figure would Mr. Mackay have cut if he had spent a hundred thousand dollars to start *L'Etendard* as a religious journal? What has come of that want of an organ on the part of the Catholics? We never heard *L'Etendard* address a word of rebuke

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