

majority of four. The National-Conservatives have generously consented to allow me to name Liberals, and the majority there to-day is a Liberal majority, which wipes out the old memories of the *Bleue* majority. (Applause.)

THE LIBERALS.

If the National-Conservatives have been loyal, if they have been faithful to the principle of the alliance which we formed in 1886, I must pay the same tribute to the Liberals.

With the exception of a few hot-heads, for there are such in all parties, and the Liberal party is not exempt from the general rule, the Liberals all over, the mass of the Liberals, have worked with me to maintain that alliance, and I declare here publicly, in this city of Quebec, where the party is perhaps stronger than anywhere else, that the Liberals of Montreal are as much in favor of that alliance as the Liberals of Quebec. (Applause.)

And the proof, gentlemen, is that all who have endeavored to break that alliance, or even advised its breaking, have been themselves broken by the popular verdict, and will be sorely so on every occasion.

I beg of my Liberal friends to believe me when I say that our salvation is in the alliance, and that its rupture would be our loss.

The day on which I shall fail in my word towards my allies will be a fatal day, not for me, but for you. The flag which we have hoisted will be torn, and we shall go back to the dark days of the past, when the people, crushed under the yoke of unjust and tyrannical laws and by religious prejudices of all kinds, would not let the Liberals come to power, where they are to-day, with the National-Conservatives, thanks to that alliance.

Let us respect that alliance and we shall retain power. (Applause.)

OSTRACISM.

One word more and I shall close. Let me tell you that the times have greatly changed. Formerly, and the years are not so many either, the places were few in this province, where the Liberals could get a hearing. The press and public men declared everywhere that the Liberal party was dangerous and that its advent to power meant the destruction of religion and the triumph of bad principles. You, the veterans, have not yet forgotten those sad days, and I have not forgotten them either.

Before 1876 when we presented ourselves anywhere, we were not very well received. You have here as your Chairman, the Hon. Francois Langelier. (Applause). In 1871 he was a candidate in the County of Bagot. He had the same talents, the same respectability which he has to-day; he was as Catholic then as he is now, and yet he was crushed because he was a Liberal. And I have heard with my own ears, as others around me have heard, honest people say that Mr. Langelier was an infidel, a man whose principles were excessively dangerous, who never put his foot into a church, and that if the County of Bagot committed the folly of electing him, it would be the triumph of impiety in the Province. He has since been elected in the city of Quebec, and he can be elected anywhere. (Applause). Time was necessary to bring about what we are to-day noting.

The tables have been completely reversed; the impious party to-day is no longer the Liberal party but the *Bleu* party. (Applause and laughter). The men with bad principles are no longer the Liberals, but the men of Mr. Chapleau's school. (Laughter). And the consequence, gentlemen, is that it was not the Conservative party, although it had twenty years of power, which settled the Jesuit question, but a National Government. (Applause). And when formerly the Liberal leaders were denounced as misérables and repelled by a prejudiced, but infinitely respectable clergy, he who has the honor to address you to-day, who is the Prime Minister of this Province, leader of the National Government, and head of the National party, has received from the Sovereign Pontiff the highest honors which can be conferred upon a layman.

CONCLUSION.

I have the honor to speak at this moment to the authorized leaders of my party in the Quebec Division assembled together in our good old capital; and it seems to me that I should not conclude these observations without making a particular appeal, which I believe to be justifiable under the circumstances.