

quiet under them. It will be remarked that Sir Colman O'Loughlin's bill contained a clause which provided that nothing in the Act should be taken to make Catholics eligible for any office for which they were theretofore ineligible. It must be evident, then, that the repeal of the Declaration against Transubstantiation could in no way prejudicially affect either the Protestant religion or the Protestant succession to the British crown.

You may say, Why should this matter be agitated in Canada? I ask in reply, Why should it not be agitated in Canada? Is not Canada a part, and a very important part, of the British empire? And do not Catholics form 42 per cent. of the population of this Dominion? Is it credible that the religious doctrines and beliefs of 42 per cent. of Britain's premier colony shall ever again be stigmatized as idolatrous and superstitious? Is it possible that the memory of those Catholics who worked so strenuously and so successfully in the past for the upbuilding of our Canada shall have no effect in softening prejudices and removing offence? Do the services of a Cartier and a Taché, a McGee and a Thompson count for nothing in the counsels and plans of Great Britain? Or can it be that marked regard will not be paid to the respectful representations of a portion of the empire whose Prime Minister, Minister of Public Works, Secretary of State, and Solicitor-General are personally affected by the objectionable Declaration against Transubstantiation?

It would seem to be our plain duty, for the interests of our religion and our honor, to do our best to remove forever from the statute-books of an empire, whose best interests we are always ready to serve, this last remnant of bitter and barbarous times.

This is not a national question; it is not a religious question; it is a matter of public policy; a request for simple justice; a plea for equal rights and for the exercise of that fair play and broad toleration which, Mr. Balfour asserts, characterize British institutions.

Unless this Declaration is abolished, let me picture for you what will happen at the next coronation. Gathered around the new king will be representatives from all parts of the empire—from the British Isles, from Asia and Africa, from Australia and from the British possessions of America. Men of every color and