

electors to use properly our constitution, and to show them how to use it for the happiness of the entire country. I should have preferred to have heard the honourable member for Chateauguay express the ideas which I am trying to communicate to the House. I should have wished that all who have spoken in a cause more noble than that of party, had spoken reason, and the discussion would have produced better results. At least we should have passed our time in the accomplishment of a useful and lofty task, that of teaching the people how the constitution should be applied and understood. But no. Attempts have been made to banish elevated ideas and replace them by appeals to prejudice. I regret it for the sake of the Liberal party and for the sake of the country. To those who have spoken of the dangers to which the autonomy of the Province is exposed, I shall say: 'Fear nothing, we shall be sheltered from all danger as long as we exceed not our jurisdiction.'

"The constitution gives us all the powers necessary to assure our welfare as a nation. I fear not the laws which may be made, which would encroach upon our rights, for the tribunals are there to protect us. What I do fear is this inclination to twist the constitution for party purposes, discrediting, above all, our province in the eyes of the rest of Canada, in making this house a simple house of debate, a veritable 'mock parliament.' Under such a system the people will no longer have confidence in this body. And if, one day, it is convinced that the sums that we expend are too considerable for the advantages resulting, if it thinks that legislative union will be better than the new system introduced by discussion on matters foreign to our jurisdiction, who will they be who will be responsible for the destruction of our provincial liberties, if not the men who ask us to exceed the limits prescribed by the constitution?

"I do not dissemble the fact that what we are doing at this moment may result unfavourably for us. I cannot say, as has said a Liberal newspaper, that I laugh at it. No; I cannot say that, for I intend to solicit the suffrages of my constituents; but I am not obliged to submit to prejudices and to triumph by their means. In a good cause, one need not always be successful. The people