MINORITY RIGHTS.

HON. C. F. FRASER'S BRILLIANT SPEECH

On the Separate School Question.

Following is a report of the speech de-livered Tuesday evening in the Legislature by Hon C F. Fraser, Commissioner of Public Works.

The hon. gentleman followed close upon Mr. Meredith, and was received with hearty applease as he rose. Mr. Meredith, he eaid, had started out alright apparently, but had not gone far before it was maniapplause as he rose. Mr. Meredith, he eaid, had started out alright apparently, but had not gone far before it was manifest that, whatever his intention was, he was geing to make an appeal to a certain class in this Province which might possibly tide him over to the government side of the House. Mr. Meredith asked what could be the motives which would induce him to take this position. Why, even the pege behind him could tell him, it was so self evident. He (Mr. Fraser) had hoped that Mr. Meredith would confine himself to a discussion of the bill before the House, but he had taken the House very far afield, dealing with the whole question of Separate schools, and, therefore, he (Mr. Fraser) would also have to go further afield than he had intended to.

It would be necessary, it seemed to him, to clear up a little as he went along. He was not at present going to follow his hon. friend. He was not, for instance, at present at all events, going to discuss what he had to say about the hierarchy of the Church, nor what he had especially to say about Archbishop Cleary. His candid opinion was, as between the hon. gentleman and Archbishop Cleary, the latter was able to take care of himself, and his impression was that the scoring which Archbishop Cleary had recently given

was able to take care of himself, and his impression was that the scoring which Archbishop Cleary had recently given him accounted for a good deal of the spirit of the attack of the hon. gentle man. (Applause.) Nor was he going to follow him through other matters with which he concerned the House respecting the hierarchy, unless at a later moment he should think it of any consequence so to do. It appeared to him from the London speech of the hon. gentleman, and still more clearly from his speech to-night—because in his London speech he did not go quite so far as he did to-night—together with what the member for Toronto, his first lieutenant, who occupied a seat beside him on the platform on the occasion of his speech at London, had to say—and together with the speech of the member for Muskoka and the resolutions paveed at West Toronto Junction, the Conventions which Mr. Clandanning was now. at West Toronto Junction, the Conven-tion at which Mr. Clendenning was nou-inated only very recently—taking these things altogether, it was tolerably clear they had heard the

FIRST GUN IN THE CRUSADE
which was intended to accomplish the
abolition of Separate schools. So they had better see now where they were, what the term Separate schools meant, what principle was involved in it, how its supporters might or might not be concerned, and how the school law might be enforced. how the school law might be entorious.

The general impression seemed to be that when a man became a supporter of a Public school or of a Separate school, what was meant by that was that he was compelled to send his children to a Pabcompelled to send his children to a Pab-lic or Separate school as the case might be. He did not read the law as meaning anything of the kind. When they talked of a Public school supporter it meant no more than this, that he was pay-ing a certain amount to the support of a Public school to which he need not send his children at all. A: a matter of fact, so far as this law of the Province of Outarlo was concerned, every Separate school sup-porter could, though he were required to pay taxes to a Public school, still send his children to a Separate school. The public mind must be disabused of the idea that he could not do this, because the public mind was greatly mistaken on that point. There was no law to compel a man to send his child to any particular school, and there was no such law in any land on this continent, or in any civilized land in the world. All the hon gentleman would succeed in doing if he did succeed in abolishing Separate schools would be to compel those of the Roman Catholic religion —just as they were being compelled across the lines—to pay for the support of a Public school to which they could not con scientiously send their children, and to carry on besides schools which to all intents and purposes would be the across tents and purposes would be the same as the Separate schools of to day. He told the hon gentleman, with respect to the 300,000 ratepayers of this Province forming its religious minority, who were dealing with this question of Separate schools from the standpoint of their religion, would be if, under every provocation they agreed with an Act which was conand to whom it was a matter of con trary to their conscience and faith and religion? Now so far as the general quesscience—who, when they talked of sup-porting Separate schools, talked of supreligion? Now so far as the general ques-tion was concerned, it was sometimes asked by those who claimed to belong to the "Equal Rights" party, "Why should they have any rights which we have not?" He porting them because their faith and religious belief required them to do so he told him that should they ever repeal these provisions, so that there should not be any Separate school law at all, there was not a single Roman Catholic Separ ate school that would the day thereafter be closed, and they could not be closed under the law. Now, he would point out where the cardinal point of the whole school law in this country was to be found. It was found in a couple of sections of Public Schools Act. They were usually known as the compulsory sections ettons 209 and 210 were the only sec tions in which, by any law of this Pro-vince hitherto passed or now in operation, any parent or guardian of a child was compelled to send the child to school at They could take the parent's or guardian's notes, and compel them, whether poor or rich, to pay towards the support of a school, but under those two sections, which formed the corner-stone of the whole system, and which directed whether a parent or guardian might or might not educate the child, there was nothing to compel him to send the child to any particular school. tion 209 said: "The parent or guar-dian of every child not less than seven years nor more than thirteen rears of age is required to cause such years of age is required to cause such child to attend a Public school, or any other school in which elementary instrucother sensor in which remembers heart tion is given, for the period of one hun-dred days in each Public school year, unless there be some ressouable excuse for non atterdance." So that the parent or non attendance. So that the parent or guardian was not bound by any law that was in existence now to send his child to any particular school, and they could not in this Province en-

force any law to compel the parents to do so. Therefore, it was only under this clause that there was any compulsion, and this clause applied only to children between seven and thirteen years of age, and under it the child might be sent to any school whatsoever where elementary instruction was given. The next clause proceeded: "A child shall not be required to attend a Public school if such child is under sufficient elementary in struction in some other manner, or if such child has been prevented attending school by sickness or other unavoidable cause, or struction in some other manner, or if such child has been prevented attending school by sickness or other unavoidable cause, or if there is no Public school which such child can attend within two miles, measured according to the nearest road from the residence of such child, if under the age of nine, and within three miles if over that age." So, he said sgain, that when people talked about abolishing Separate schools, when it was said that a crusade was to be led by the hon. mamber for London looking to that end, he told them if the day ever came when that de cision would be reached by this Lugislature, if they ever put the people of the minority in the same position as they found themselves in the State of New York, where, being compelled to pay towards the Public schools, they at the same time voluntarity, because of their faith, had established schools of their own—he said to them shead of the time, if ever that time did come, if ever such a law was brought into operation, it would be the stealing—for he could not use any other phrase—from the Roman Catholic minority money for the support of schools to which they could not conscientiously sand their children. What else could it b. Ulder a compact, as solema as compact could be made, assented to by the old

their children. What else sould it be?
Under a compact, as solemn as compact
could be made, assented to by the old
Province of Upper Canada, first formulated by conference, then ratified
by the people, ratified by the
Imperial Parliament and the Parliament
of Canada, the pledged faith of the whole
people of this country was given that the
minority should be allowed to rotain
these Separate schools, and why should
they be jeopardised when they had done
nothing to deserve the jeopardising of
them? What had they done? he should
like to ask the hon. gentleman. There them? What had they done? he should like to ask the hon. gentleman. There were those who said the pupils were in ferior. Where were they infertor, or how? In what line of life was it? The Separate schools of this Province were fity years old. They had been guaranteed to the minority now by the British North America Act for outs quarters? North America Act for quits quarter of a century. He would like to ask what class of the graduates were afraid to face the majority of their fellowmen in this Province of Oaterie? He thought that was the best test of what their system was doing. They might talk their system and and say the Separate school teachers had not certificates, but he said the practical results of their public opinion was seen in every walk of life, and, comparing their status with that of twenty five years ago, their position bad distinctly advanced. Take the Bar, take the pulpit, take the Bench, and he would show them men who were the squals of those who professed to be better educated because they came from Public schools. He did not say they were any better. It was not because they said they were any better that they maintained these schools, but because they believed that their young but because they believed that their young children growing up should be educated day by day in their religion. What were they doing in the United States? There nearly a million of the Roman Catholic children attended what are called parochial schools, and these were supported out of the pockets of the Roman Catholic rate-payers, who had to may hadden to made and a may be added. of the pockets of the Keman Unifold rate-payers, who had to pay besides towards sup-porting what would be the Public schools of this Province. And these parochial schools were increasing, and only recently there had been a more energetic move in the direction of increasing them in face of the direction of increasing them in face of the fact that those who supported them had to pay two rates. In the face of that, when they were pledged to that system, when it was doing no harm and educating the pupils just as fairly as the Public school system, when the graduates were in all respects the equals of their fellows, what pretext could there be for the abolition of the Separate School system unless it was to steal and pilier from the minority? There proof of it, and because where they had no Separate school law at all they were carrying on their own system of education, and the same thing would occur here. Did they think the Raman Catholic minority were going to be such sneaks, or make of themselves such palpable cowards as they

in this Province, and, as he read the law, they could be established in every city, tawn and village to morrow, and estab town and village to morrow, and estab lished by far more easy methods as to con-trel, as to the giving of notice and as to all that concerned the machinery of the schools than could Roman Catholic Separ te schools. He would read that Act over ate schools. He would read that Act over again and see if he was wrong, because they had heard it stated that there was no such thing as Protestant Separate schools being established except under certain exceptional circumstances. Section 1 of this Act said: "Upon the application in writ-Act said: "Upon the application in writing of five or more heads of families resident in any township, city, town or incorporated village being Protestants, the Municipal Council of the said township, or the Board of School Trustees of any such city, town or incorporated village, shall authorize the establishment therein of one or more Separate schools for Protestants; and upon the application of five or more heads of families resident in any township, city, town or incorporated vil-lage, being colored people, the Council of such township or the Board of School Trustees of any such city, town or incorporated village, shall authorize the estab-lishment therein of one or more Separate schools for colored people, and in every such case such Council or Board, as the case may be, shall prescrible the limits of the section or sections of such schools."

annual Legislative Public achool grans, shall be exempt from the payment of all rates imposed for the support of the Pablic schools of such city, town, iscorporated village and school rection respectively, and of all rates imposed for the purpose of obtaining the Public school grant."

Mr. Mercutth—That is a condition also.

Mr. Meredith—That is a condition also. In the Roman Catholic Separate schools.
Mr. Fraser—No, but this is more liberal. It does not require any notice. I am going to point out that there is no technicality put in the way of Protestant Separate school supporters. Mr. Fraser re read the clause tegether with the next succeeding one, which is as follows:
"The exemption from the payment of school rates as herein provided, shall not

more ample and more liberal for the establishment of Protestant Separate schools than there were for the establish ment of Reman Catholic Separate schools. It was no answer to his argument that is had not been done. He was not adducing it for the purpose of saying that it had not been done, but for the purpose of showing that those who said Roman Cath olice enjoyed a privilege that was not exceeded to others. olics enjoyed a privilege that was the talended to others were entirely mistaken. He could not quite understand why Protestant Separate schools had not been established, unless it was that the Protes tants were a large mejority in the Province, and that, controlling the Public schools as they did, they should be quite schools as they did, they should be quite content to have them as their system. But there were cases where Protestant Separate schools had been established. There were nine in the Province of Ontails, where until two or three years largely perhaps, now as they did in the Ontario, where, until two or th ag, instead of the teacher requising to be qualified, the trustees could sign a certi-ficate without even the formula of an ex amination. But suppose there were no such statute as the one he had quoted, he had for a long time been unable to under had for a long time been unable to under stand why in the larger centres—for ex-ample, in the City of Toronto, where the schools were for the most part unmixed—there had not been more relig

that there was not a single item of legisla-

ion that his eye had not ecanned; that he

was there to put the dots over the i's and

the crosses over the t's; that he was

always eager and at his desk, and could

Roman

reason why there abould not be. If there was all the tendency towards union of the Protestant denominations which it was stated there was, he had thought how was it possible, where there were not Roman Catholic pupils, and where the children of various Protestant denomina could not be agreed upon. One could not if he would, nor dare not if he could, lose his eyes to the fact that agnosticism and athelem were spreading a great deal in the world, and that these did not come from the farm, the hamlet or the town-ship, but from the great centres of the population; and would it not be a good thing, instead of trying to abolish Separate schools, if the Caristian Caurches of this Province, where they have the opportunity, without any demur being made, to introduce into these Public schools more of the religious teaching which in the end might save a good many from drifting from Christianity into the paths of agnosticism or athelam, or any of the other lame to which he had referred. The other isms to which he had referred.

The speaker next proceeded to give the reasons why the hon gentleman had entered upon this crusade against Separate schools. He did not think he needed to go further than his friend's London speech find the reason. The hon, gentleman had been in this chamber during the time that

The hon, gentleman read on to the 6 h and 7th sections without interruption These two clauses provide: "In any dity or town the persons who make application, according to the provisions of section? 2 of this Act, may have a Separate school in each ward or in two or more wards united, as the sail persons may judge expedient." Then the 7th 'No Frotestant Separate school shall be allowed in any achool section, except when the teacher of the Public school in such section is Roman Catholic." Mr. Fraser remarked that this was the only qualification contained throughout the act to the general power.

Mr. Fraser said bis hon, friend tall, where the was any such thing, or ever had been sold to the case of cities, towns and villages, and therefore there might have been a time during which been seen as very good reason in the minds of those regulating these laws why there should not be a second Protestant school in a school section, in which Separate school section, or supporting the same by subscribing thereto annually an amount equal to the sum at which such person, if such Separate school did not exist, must have been rated in order to obtain the same by subscribing thereto annually an amount equal to the sum at which such person, if such Separate school did not exist, must have been rated in order to obtain the same by subscribing thereto annually an amount equal to the sum at which such person, if such Separate school did not exist, must have been rated in order to obtain the such second of the sum at which such person, if such Separate school did not exist, must have been rated in order to obtain the such second of the such s give him increased support from Protestant recruits. He (Mr. Fraser) denied that there was any such thing, or ever had been such a thing, as a solid Roman Catholic vote in this Province or in the Dominion. Even the clergy were divided, and there had never been a time during which the Roman Catholic vote for any party or parties had been solid or nearly solid. Not only the laity were divided, but the clergy were divided in their politics, and the Bishops also, just as they had a right to be. In the old days the Oatholics were found supporting Baldwin, and to day the Roman Catholic allegiance to the Liberal party would have been about as it was then had it not been for this Separate school question. It was well-known at the time of Confederation they were with the Conservative party. How did they come into Confederation? They came in with the Separate school system guaranteed. Next he referred to the calling of a Roman Catholic Convention in the City of Toronto, which was a lay move for the purpose of disensative the nestion of Roman cattons which was a lay move for the purpose of discussing the question of R.man Catholic patronage. His hon. I find told him that the R.man Catholic had a told him that the Roman Catholics had a right to aspire. Yes, they had a right to aspire, but it was very rarely that they got there. It sounded well on the plat-forms, it went well at a convention, it had a very nice ring about it, but there was a great unwritten law that "blood is Mr. Fraser—No, but this is more interest. It does not require any notice. I am going to point out that there is no technicality put in the way of Protestant Separate school supporters. Mr. Fraser to read the clause tegether with the next succeeding one, which is as follows: "The exemption from the payment of school rates, as herein provided, shall not extend beyond the period during which such persons send children to or sub scribe as aforesaid for the support of such Separate school; nor shall the exemption extend to echool rates or taxes imposed, or to be imposed, to pay for school houses, the erection of which was undertaken or entered into before the establishment of such Separate school." The hon, gentlesuch Separate school The hon, gentlesuch Separate school The hon gentlesuch Separate school The hon gentlesuch Separate school Company of the Protestant of the support of such Separate school The hon, gentlesuch Separate school Separate school The hon gentlesuch Separate school as the thouse of the set is would be found that in the end
there were very few offices for those who
formed a religious minority. Friends of
the back schoolhouses, were too
prone to say the Catholica obtained too
prone to say the Catholica obtained too
what was right by the Roman Catholica,
they had not been able to do it, simply
because the underlying influences had
been against them. The next movement
of any consequence among the Roman
Catholica took place after the election of
Separate school The hon gentlesuch Separate school Separate school The hon gentlesuch Separate school Separate school The hon gentlesuch Separate school as the separate school is the set of the such persons saud children to or sub scribe as aforesaid for the support of such S-parate school; nor shall the exemption extend to school rates or taxes imposed, or to be imposed, to pay for school houses, the eraction of which was undertaken or entered into before the establishment of such S-parate school." The hone gentles man asked the House to mak that the world "herein," as used here, should show what was meant by the preceding saction. So that under this law, which related to Protestant Separate schools, there was no necessity for any notice at all, except for the original petition, and thereafter any person might become a supporter, not being bound by any particular date, nor any particular rule; but, so long as he chose to make a contribution, he was axempt from the rate that flowed to the ordinary Public schools. In quoting the other clauses he atted that flowed to the ordinary Public schools. In quoting the other clauses he stated that in one respect the Art was less gener out, if he might use the term, than the Separate School Act, because once a man became a Separate school supporter he could not withdraw except he had given notice during a certain time in the year of his intention. So that there were on the statute book of the country provisions more ample and more liberal for the land of the Longerval to the land of Catholics, who is intention to the country provisions more ample and more liberal for the land of the Longerval to the Longerval to the land of the Longerval to the Longerval party a large body of Catholics, who joined the Liberal party and had remained with it ever since. But they did not all leave, ot even then. There even then probably remained more than one-half the Roman Catholics following the hon, gentleman posite. In order to see whether their paration from him had come about by opposite. perfectly natural stages, he proposed to take the elections of 1879 and 1883 and 1886. There were in this Pro-vince constituencies in which the Roman Catholics predominated and he There were in this Prointended to take these constituencies to demonstrate that in the election of 1879, even after these amendments, the hou, gentleman bad as nearly as might be one half the Catholic vote. In Dun

election of 1879. He said now that his only chance of success lay in driving out the Catholics from his party in the hope that he might gather in sufficient of others to compen such statute as the one he had quoted, he had for a long time been unable to under stand why in the larger centres—for excample, in the City of Toronto, where the schools were for the most part tunmixed—there had not been more religious education imparted. There was no reason why there should not be. If West, in Prescott, in Russell, in Stormont, and the schools were should not be. in North York, etc., in sixteen constituen cies in all where the Roman Catholic vote s either in the majority or forms a very important factor in the contest, that vote ten years ago, so far from being, as was now charged, a unit in favor of the Liberals, was, so far as could be gathered, much more in favor of the Opposition than of the Government. In all these places the Roman Catholic vote had than of the Government. In all these places the Roman Catholic vote had either secured the election for Mr. Meredith of a follower, who was in several cases a Roman Catholic himself, or had furnished a large proportion of the support which the Conservative candidate had secured. In Essex South Mr. Wigle had been returned to support Mr. Mcredith, and in Glengarry Mr. McMaster, one of his warmest and neet talented supporters, had been elected, both of them receiving the bulk of the Roman Catholic vote. Mr. Lees had been returned for Lanark nominally as an Independent, though he seemed upon coming into the House to lorget that he had ever seen such a word as "independent," and had been constantly voting for Mr. Meredith. He, too, had voting for Mr. Meredith. He, too, had had the largest share of the Roman Cath olic vote of that constituency. In Ottawa, if the Roman Catholic vote was not in a majority, it was closs upon it. Under the Manhood Suffrage Act he believed it been in this chamber during the time that all these various amendments had been made. If there was anything that his friend boasted of more than another it was that here was not a single item of legisla. and, more than that, the Conservative candidate, defeated or victorious, had almost invariably received the larger share of the Roman Catholic vote of these constituentoman Catholic vote of these constituen-cies. Altogether there were five Roman Catholic members supporting Mr. Mere dithin the Parliament that ceased in 1835. Then Mr. Fraser told the story of me detect anything that was of a faiss nature, and that any particular provision that re-quired amendment he could put it right.

election of 1883, showing that the result was practically the same, the larger proportion of the Roman Catholic vote being still east on the Conservative side. Cornwall seturned Mr. Ross, a Roman Catholic; Essex North, Mr. White, a Roman Catholic; West Kent returned Mr. Clancy, a Roman Catholic; in Lanark the "independent" Mr. Lees was sgain seturned, and all of them chiefly or largely by the aid of the Roman Catholic vote. In Kingston Mr. Metcalfe shared the Roman Catholic vote.

Mr. Metcalfe—They are orthodox there yet. (Baughter)

Mr. Reteasted— they are orthodox sates
yet. (haughter)
Mr. Fraser—Yes; my hon. friend is
prepared to admit that in spite of the
rumors that are abroad it is not true, so
for as Kingston is concerned, that the
Roman Catholics have left the Conservative party-not even with Archbishop

Cleary there.
Mr. Metcalfe—He is the best man they

Mr. Metcalie—He is the best man tasy have.

Continuing, Mr. Fraser briefly showed that in Ottawa Mr. Baskerville had been again returned, in Prescott the Conservative candidate got 95 per sent. of the Roman Catholic vote, and Russell and Stormont both sent supporters of Mr. Meredith to the House. Thus, said Mr. Fraser, he had demonstrated that down to 1886, so far as Roman Catholics were son. Fraser, he had demonstrated that down to 1886, so far as Roman Catholics were son carned, notwithstanding all that had been said about the alliance between the Government and the Roman Catholic hierarchy, notwithstanding that it had been said that the Roman Catholic lay vote would go to the polls in a solid mass, notwithstanding that it had been called the "sheen" yethe notwithstanding all notwithstanding that it had been called the "sheep" vote, notwithstanding all these and various other slanders, down to that time at least they found more than half the Roman Catholies of the country supporting hon. gentlemen opposite, and saveral supporting them in the House. But in 1886 there was reason why they should not be found doing so. If the leader of the Opposition had not mounted the Protestant horse he had at least put on his boots and fastened his spure. Brother William Ball would not otherwise have told them what he had the other day in the city. denomination that had supported either the Opposition or the Government, and that had been assailed as the Roman Catholic denomination had been, by the party it was giving its support to, would have deserted that party, Government or Opposition, and rightly so. No wonder the Conservative party had lost a consider able proportion of the Roman Catholic vote. Mr. Meredith had driven them from blue. He had done so because at the very yote. Mr. Meredith had drives at the very him. He had done so because at the very him his opporhim. He had done so because at the very last minute he thought he saw his opportunity. He thought this great Protestant Province of Ontario could be aroused by religious prejadioss. Although he had professed no hostility to the minority yet the minority had concluded from all that he had said, and that had been said by his followers, that if he gat into power had he had said, and that had been said by his followers, that if he got into power he would be at the mercy of those who formed the strongest part, the very back-bone of his political party. Brother Wm Bell had told them that he intended mounting the Protestant horse. The pro-clamation had been made. Everybody who could understand the English lanwho could understand the English language understood from what had been
aunounced that Mr. Meredith was
prepared to vote for such an
amendment to the Constitution as
would give to the Legislature the
right to deal with Separate schools, and if
this power were obtained by him there
could be no doubt, after what he had said
there that night—he could not me an hon-

there that night—he could not, as an honest man, do otherwise than endeavor to abouth Separate schools. But even in 1886, in spite of sil that had been said, and with so much that could be read between the lines of his manifesto of that year, with the evident tendency of the statements made on his behalf through the gether! (Loud laughter and applause.)
M. French seid Mr. Fraser had made a statements made on his behalf through the country by his candidates, still there was no solid Roman Catholic vote in the Pro-vince of Ontario. Mr. Meredith had not so large a chare of it as before, but even with all that had been said, with the evident trend of his own mind, with his evident trend of his own mind, with his evident antagonism to the Roman Catholic minority of the Province, still there were thousands of Roman Catholic votes cast for him through Ostario. In Essex North Mr. White was defeated by Mr. Pacaud, but Mr. White received the vote of his co-religionists. Mr. White, by the way, Mr. Fraser pointed out, was the particular Roman Catholic who was taken round to the various constituencies to streighten Roman Catholic who was taken round to the various constituencies to streighten things out. Mr. Meredith was afraid at this time to show any more than his boots and spurs, and he didn't want to risk too much on them; so, while he was doing all he could so facrease the number of his Protestant supporters, Mr. White was sent around to try and keep the Roman@Catho-ches tagether. Mr. Fraser then repeated around to try and keep the Komangoutho-olica together. Mr. Fraser then repeated the story of how, while he was going round in this way, Mr. White happened to get into a church one day while a ser-vice was going on, and, upon the kneeling of the congregation, Mr. White had knelt, to, and the prayer happened to be for the success of Mr. White's opponents. Mr. Write, no doubt, prayed as heartily as any-body, and his prayer was answered, for body, and his prayer was answered, for his lopponents were successful. After that let nobody doubt the efficacy of prayer, said Mr. Fraser. The H.m. Computationer recountered the several other constituencies, which retained even in noishmer recountered the several other constituencies which retained, even in 1886, a good share of the Roman Catholic vote When he came to Kent, he re-marked that his hon, friend, Mr. Clancy, a Romas Catholic himself, had been still returned for that constituency. Clincy broke in with :

"Yes, in spite of you." "I was on my back on a sick bed at the tme," said Mr. Fraser, "so I don't see how the hon gentleman can say in spite of me. If I had been able to do anything I mighthave succeeded in reducing his two or three of a majority so much that he would not have got back here at

even at the election of '86 he could point to the twelve constituencies in the Province where the Roman Catholic vote was largest, and show that that vote had not been bartered either one way or the other by the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The Roman Catholic hierarchy as the Protestants. It was an ideal, and an off-mative insult, to say they did otherwise. They did not require the ballot to protect them. No doubt in some constituencies the ecclesiastics had exercised their influence, just as many of the Protestant clergy had done. He did not hear very much said against the political sermons that were preached from Protestaut pulpits on behalf of the Conservatives so frequently, but if the Roman Catholic priests had done the like the Orange lodges would be ringing with their erime. The Roman Catholic elergy had the same rights as the Protestant clergy. He was not protesting against the use the Protestant clergy put these rights to. Ministers and priests had the right to use their influence testing against the use the Protestant clergy put these rights to. Ministers and priests had the right to use their influence just as other men did. He knew no reason why they should not be permitted to express their opinion just as other men did. Yet Mr. Meredith, only in his recent London speech, had taken a slash at Archbishop Cleary for using his influence, and had carefully refained from mentioning the Protestant clergymen who had preached sermons on his behalf in London pulpits on the Sunday preceding the elections.

Mr. Meredith said he had never even

Me. Fracer seid they were reported in Mc. Fracer said they were reported in the press at all events, and must have been delivered. No doubt priests of the Roman Catholic mincrity had exercised their rights similarly. They had a right to do so. Many of them had used their influence sgainst hon gentlemen opposite. How could they have expected them to do otherwise when the conflict came to do otherwise when the conflict came to what it was in 1886, or, still more, what what it was in 1886, or, suit more, what it had come to now, when it had b come "a battle of the rchoole," as it had been styled the other day by the hon. member for Torento (Mr. H E. Clarke)—an hongentleman whom he supposed would be one of these likely to form a Government if they were returned to Bell would not otherwise have told them what he had the other day in the city. The Roman Catholic people were not idicts or fools. They knew the politics of the country as well as he did, and could read between the lines and see the signs of the times. If these told anything in the election of 1886 it was this—that, looking at what had been eald from the public platforms in Toronto, platforms on which Mr. Meredith had been one of the speakers, they had decided that the time had come for their departure from his political side in larger numbers than ever before. He were from a religious instinct, they would be traiters to their Caurch if they did; false to their own conceientious content of the Course of these schools of the season of the speakers, they had decided that the time had come for their departure from his political side in larger numbers than ever before. He ventured to say that any Protestant denomination that had supported either the Opposition or the Government, and vent the abolition of those schools of which they thought so much. They were not to be tlamed for their active participation in the campaign. They would have been more readily blamed by the Roman Catholic minority if they had not displayed this activity. The Roman Catholic misority expected them to do Catholic introllty expected them to do
this. They felt, many of them, that their
priests had more time at their disposal,
and were otherwise better fitted than
many laymen were, for taking an active
part in defending the privileges that had
been given to the Roman Catholic minorty. They were xneeted to devote themity. They were expected to devote them-selves more particularly than laymen to matters connected with the training and education of the young. He repeated that if the Roman Catholic minority of that if the Roman Catholic minority of the Province found their pricess not giving attention to the schools and active in their defence, they would be the first to say the priests were wrong in not doing so, and when they do give attention, and carefully day by day, week by week and carefully day by day, week by week and month by month, the Roman Ostholic minority approved their action and applauded them. There was another fact that the intelligent Roman Catholics of the country had to look at. If the hop, gautheman opposite was called upon to form a Government what sort of a one would it be? There would be, he supposed his Brother from Owen Sound (Mr.

> mistake in including him in the Grand Mr. Fraser, continuing, suggested that perhaps one of them would tile the door, and the laughter was renewed. But, he and the laughter was renewed. But, he said, he thought the Reman Catholic minority had no desire to be ruled by the Grand Lodge of Ontario. The Conservatives were even now driving the Roman Catholics from them; they were giving them no place in their counsels and did not intend to. That Roman Catholic would be stund, would be a traiter to his own best interests, and would lose sight of what he ought to do if he lent any influence towards the return of Mr. Meredith. He did not doubt that some of them would do it, some whom his words of advice would not reach. Mr. Clancy, no doubt, would do his best to come back, but if he came back what influence would he have in such a Government as he had suggested, always suppos-ing it was returned to power, and the hongentieman was lucky enough—no doubt he would consider it lucky—to form a member of it? And what other Government than such a one could be formed by the Conservative opposite? Why, if the hon, gentleman entered such a Governtasm and adopted their policy on the Separate schools question, whom would he represent? Nobody, he would tell him. One after another, said Mr. Fraser in conclusion of his remarks on this point, could be taken the milestones he had pointed out as having been planted by the hon gentlemen opposite, and looking at these milestones the House would see why to day there is a majority of the Roman Catholic minority of the Province sup-porting this Liberal Government. Although he had, said Mr. Fresen, already detained the House some consider-

able time, he would now say some few words in respect to some of the provisions of the bill before them.

ow the non genteman can say in spite of the bill before them, for me. If I had been able to do anything I mighthave succeeded in reducing his two or three of a majority so much that he would not have got back here at all."

Mr. Fraser—My hon. frieud says "Hear, hear." He did not say "Hear, hear," some time ago when something was being said that it would have become him well to say "Hear, hear" to. (Laughter.) The