

it afford s—he would make them aliens and outcasts from the rights of citizens. Upon what pretence is this proposed action based? What excuse is offered for this hostility? Sir, it is the old excuse that the Jews used to condemn the Saviour of mankind. When they failed in all others, "This man," they proclaimed, "is an enemy of Caesar's—away with Him." It is the contention which Burke tells us is the last resort of every scoundrel when driven by logic from every other position, he is sure to accuse his opponent of want of loyalty, and to proclaim himself as the defender of his country.

I do not hope to be able to remove from the mind of prejudiced persons all suspicion as regards the loyalty of Catholics to the country of their birth or adoption the world over, but I do think I can adduce evidence that should satisfy all reasonable men that there is nothing in Catholic doctrine that is incompatible with that love of country the Creator has implanted in the breast of every man, whether he be Protestant, Catholic, Jew or infidel. For my part I yield to no man in loyalty to my country. If the teacher of any religion was to say to me, "You must, if you wish to be saved, uphold the authority of the Pope, or of any other King or potentate whatsoever, against the constitution of this country," my answer would be, "I will stand by my country against any foreign or even domestic pretender that would overrule the rights of its citizens, and you may go elsewhere to preach your doctrine. I know that the Creator of man never put in his heart a love of country and then commanded him to obey a church that would compel him to violate his own conscience; therefore, you cannot be the exponent of the true church and I am done with you." That, sir, would be my answer, and it would be the answer of every one worthy to be called a man.

But, sir, when and where and under what circumstances have Catholics ever been wanting in loyalty to this country, or to any other country? They are all countries; to none have they been false. Where is the page of history that asserts it? Catholics have rebelled in some countries against certain Kings and certain Governments, so have Protestants. It is not the teaching of their religion in either case; it has come from other causes. Edmund Burke, himself a Protestant, writing in 1792, tells us of the predictions of certain persons in England when the franchise was given alike to Catholics and to Protestants in this Canada of ours. Here are his words:—"It is true that some people, and amongst them one eminent divine, predicted at that time that by this step we should lose our dominion in America. He foretold that the Pope would send his indulgences hither; that the Canadians would fall in with France, would declare independence and draw or force our colonies into the same design. The independence happened according to his prediction, but in directly the reverse order. All our English Protestant colonies revolted, they joined themselves to France, and it so happened that Papist Canada was the only place which preserved its fidelity, the only place in which France got no footing, the only peopled colony which now remains to Great Britain. Vain are all the prognosics taken from ideas and passions which survive the state of things which give rise to them."

Was their religion the cause of this revolt? asked Mr. Conmee, or are they to be considered bad Protestants because of their action? No one will so contend. Did not the Catholics of Germany fight the Catholics of France? No one ever suspected the Catholics of Germany or the Catholics of France of want of loyalty to their country. Across the line to the south of us during their late civil war the Catholics of the North and of the South fought each other just as did the Protestants; both were animated by the same motives. Even on the field of Waterloo Catholics composed a large portion of the army under the Duke of Wellington. Did they, I ask, falter during that great and mighty contest, when the fate of Protestant England, yea, of mankind, was trembling in the balance, or were their bullets or their bayonets misdirected? When the French hosts rallied by the great Napoleon were hurled again and again upon their ranks, and when, at length, the decisive moment came for the heroic Wellington to order his great and mighty charge, and when, with words characteristic of that great soldier, he let loose the long-restrained valor of his command, were the Catholics less intrepid than their Protestant comrades? Or did they hesitate to throw themselves upon the foe? The triumph of British arms on that occasion was not a triumph of one religion or of one race; the blood of English, Irish and Scotch, Protestant and Catholic, drenched the same pool. Divided in life, yet united in death for the same great and glorious cause, the preservation of the Catholic constitution of England, the greatest and noblest charter of liberty ever yet given to any portion of the human race.

Yet men tell us here in this Province that Catholics, because of their faith, cannot be loyal citizens. It is only by mis-

representation that such opinions can be disseminated, even in the minds of the prejudiced and ill-informed. Living in a country of mixed creeds and races, our duty is plain. We should cultivate goodwill between all classes. The goodwill of a man's neighbor is of more value to him than silver or gold. Men do not live upon paper or move about in space, each one for himself; men get happiness from association, from intercourse, from the enjoyment of society. Anything that disturbs these conditions is injurious to the nation. The man who would destroy them is an enemy to his country and to society.

Sir, I repeat that the Catholics of this country have upon all occasions been loyal to it. When the American army appeared before Quebec, the Catholics of that Province rallied to the defence of the country. Men of 60 and boys of 16, although under strong temptation, stood loyal in the defence of the country to which they had sworn allegiance, and spilled their best blood in defence of the nation; and if the British flag to-day floats proudly over that grand old fortress, we owe it to the valor and loyalty of our French-Canadian fellow-citizens of the Province of Quebec. I ask, are these the men to be alienated in the land for the preservation of which their life-blood was spilled out?

Sir, there is yet another phase of Canadian history that it may be well to remember. As it was in Lower Canada, so in Upper Canada, when the enemy crossed the border, the men of Glengarry, mostly Catholic, with many others, stood loyal in the defence of the country, and when the scene of action was on the banks of the great St. Lawrence, and when they were giving ground in the face of vastly superior numbers, and when the day was all but lost, there came to their head a Catholic priest, and, with words which he well knew would quicken the blood of his Highland kinsmen, he challenged his countrymen to follow him. His valor and courage was so great that he rallied them again to the onset, and, instead of defeat, the enemy was driven from Canadian soil. Are these the men to be alienated or denied the full rights of citizenship? I have too much faith in my fellow-countrymen, too much hope for the future of my country, to believe that such a spirit can prevail. Let us cast away old illusions and old prejudices; let us have confidence in ourselves and in the future of our country, and march forward to the building up, not of one religion, or of one race, upon the ruins of another, but of a great, united and vigorous nation. (Applause.)

HON. MR. FRASER.

Hon. Mr. Fraser said that anybody who was acquainted with the political barometer of Ontario, knew the methods and manner and circumstances of the last two or three general elections, and knew all the questions relating to the Roman Catholic minority in this Province, would have no difficulty in telling that at the present time the political mercury was pointing to a general election. Counting the proposition that had been disposed of already, there had been during the present session three general propositions dealing with the religious minority of the Province brought forward for the consideration of the House. He wished he was in his old-time vigor, and able to say all he would like to say on the question. But, so far as he was now able to do, he would deal with some of the salient features of the proposition now before the House. He did not propose to go far afield, because, while much might be said on the topic, and some matters of history might be appropriately brought to bear upon the debate, yet, in mercy to himself, and perhaps still more in mercy to his hearers, he must be very limited and brief in what he had to say. In the proposition before the House they were dealing with the question as to whether or not Separate School trustees should be elected by ballot. If this question were one now arising for the first time, alongside the question as to whether we were going to have the Separate School system, that is, the establishment of the system, and we were settling the details of the whole system, including the details of the manner in which the boards of trustees should be elected, he was free to say that, although he had no particular preference for the ballot as a form of election, and considered it, in its last analysis, a badge of cowardice, and an indication, to some extent, of slavery of thought, and a proof that men are not so free as they should be, and whilst he might personally, and would personally, prefer that all his voting should be done openly, in the old way; yet, as he had said, if we were now discussing the question of Separate Schools for the first time, irrespective of all the circumstances that have grown up around them, he would have no objection whatever to the ballot if he felt that the sentiment of the House was on the whole in favor of it. But, as he had said more than once on previous occasions, and as he must say again on the present occasion, it was impossible to dissociate the circumstance of this bill from all the circumstances surrounding it, which had accompanied it.