

to pay towards keeping the Catholics under the care and tutelage of the priests.

Come to close quarters and ask, Whether this claim of the priests upon the government for exceptional treatment has not two sides? If the conscience of the priest is so tender that he cannot possibly permit the children of his people to attend a secular school, what about the conscience of the Jew or Protestant who sees public money taken to maintain a Catholic school? Have priests alone such tender consciences that the State must bow to them? Is there no assault upon the conscience, when a government takes public money to maintain schools that teach their scholars enmity to those of other creeds? Is not every Separate school subsidized out of the public chest an insult to the convictions of every non-Catholic?

Were Protestants as alive to their convictions and their own self-preservation as the priests, they would not allow a dollar of public money to go to the support of Separate schools. The priest with his *non possumus* should be met with an equally decided reply, that public funds shall not be taken to propagate his creed. Let the priest be given to understand in the most emphatic language, that other citizens have an equal right to have their conscientious beliefs respected and that he is unable to produce a single valid plea to entitle his sect to receive from the government treatment different from that accorded to other sects. Whence does this claim upon the government spring? Is it not from spiritual pride, a pride that rests on the pretence of the priests that their church represents Christ upon earth?

A DECEPTIVE ARGUMENT.

A plausible argument why Separate schools be granted, is that those who ask for them are entitled to their share of the taxes to do with that amount as they see fit. This would be effective, were taxes levied according to creed. Do we pay taxes as Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, or Jews, or do we pay them as citizens? Are there separate cash-boxes in the treasuries of our Provinces and at Ottawa,