

lieved and maintained that the provisions of the law as previously existing in respect to separate schools, were conceived in a kindly feeling, and were equitable and liberal. I am so persuaded still. But these provisions of the law having been complained of by Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, the new Separate School Act is the result—an act, which, while it maintains our public school system inviolate and even places it upon a firmer and broader foundation than that upon which it rested before, yet confers upon members of the Roman Catholic persuasion, powers and distinctions which are not possessed by any class of Protestants in Upper Canada, and which their own Representatives would never consent to confer upon them.

Former Acts objected to.

Good effect of present Act on Common School system.

2. While in our public schools, the religious rights and faith of pupils of all persuasions are equally protected, and while I am persuaded of the superior advantages of those schools in respect to both economy and all the appliances of instruction, I shall, on this very account, in addition to the obligations of official duty, do all in my power to lessen the disadvantages of those who prefer separate schools, and secure to them every right and advantage which the Separate School act confers.

In public schools, religious rights protected.

Fair administration of this Act.

3. I have prepared blank forms of semi-annual returns, which you are to make to me, and on the receipt of which I will determine and pay half-yearly the sums from the Legislative school grant to Roman Catholic Separate Schools. To enable me to do so the more readily it will be necessary for you to appoint some person in this city to receive and give duplicate receipts for the sums payable to your school according to law. The blank power of attorney, which you can obtain in duplicate, can therefore be filled up and presented by your agent to this Department. The

Blank forms.

Agent in Toronto.

Power of Attorney.