

THE PROTESTANT MINORITY IN QUEBEC

IN ITS POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MAJORITY.

OTTAWA, 19th February, 1876.

THE HON. SIR A. T. GALT,

MY DEAR SIR ALEXANDER, — I have to thank you for the courtesy which prompted you to send me advance proof sheets of your letter, on the subject of "Civil Liberty in Lower Canada"; and I am prompted to reply to it in the present form, partly for the reason that the question is one which can be more satisfactorily dealt with in this way, and also for the reason that having been the immediate occasion of the delivery by Mr. Huntington of his now celebrated speech at St. Andrews, I may, without any charge of presumption, be permitted thus to deal with the issues arising out of that speech, and to the discussion of which your letter is directed.

The speech itself at the time of its delivery certainly did not seem likely to create the interest which has since been provoked by it. I arrived in the County of Argenteuil late on the Tuesday night of the week of nomination, and on the Wednesday attended a meeting which had been arranged for me, in the French section of the County, at which both political parties were represented. At that meeting I was compelled to listen to appeals against my candidature based upon my supposed fanaticism and bigotry as a Protestant. The electors were told that I had just been driven out of Montreal by the French Canadian electors notwithstanding a large Protestant majority in my favour, because I was intensely inimical to the