

Popery? The more Popery the better would then be the Conservative sentiment.

But whatever political advantage we may receive from the good-will of Roman Catholics, whether clergy or laity, we shall not owe to any unequal rights or privileges obtained by their Church or people at our hands, for they have obtained none; nor do we owe their good-will to any condition, promise, or understanding in regard to the future, for there has been no such condition, promise, or understanding. With the light of my official experience, I have always thought that as observant churchmen the Roman Catholics, bishops, clergy, or laity, do not expect any unequal privileges and advantages in a Province where their people number but one-sixth of the population.

Since Confederation no religious question has divided political parties in Ontario; and, outside of religious questions, Protestants and Catholics have the same interest in good government. I have no ground for doubting that one principal reason why any of the Roman Catholic bishops and clergy desire the success of the present Ontario Government is that, in common with (I hope and believe) the majority of the Protestant clergy, they believe the present Ontario Government to be a good Government; they believe that we have governed well in the past, and that we may be relied on for governing well in the future. The Roman Catholic newspapers which are friendly to us, have, when referring to the Government, been in the habit of commending it in that sense. Thus the last number of the *Canadian Freeman*, a Roman Catholic journal published in Kingston, tells its readers that "the chief reason why the present Ontario Government has been again and again returned to office is, that it is a prudent and honest Government in the management of the finances of the Province." An examination of the files of that journal, and of other journals of the same character, would no doubt supply many like examples.

If the friendliness of the Archbishop, or of any of the bishops or priests, has any additional reason applicable to Roman Catholics specially, I believe that additional reason is to be found in the fact that in most parts of the Province Orangemen are the backbone of the Conservative party. You observe in your letter that their methods are "unnecessarily irritating to Roman Catholics," and that they "go out of their way to bring trouble out of the feuds of the past." When no question between Protestants and Catholics is at issue, it is not unnatural that Catholics should be found gradually withdrawing from a party in which Orangeism is so prominent.

It is further to be remembered that in the old land Irish Catholics have generally belonged to the Liberal party. So, in