

REGARD TO THE ADVISABILITY OF INTRODUCING S, AND INCIDENTALLY, UPON BARE LEGS.

In recent speeches, and in letters addressed to the public press, attacked established in this Province, (as are the Protestant Separate Schools in the) indulged in language grossly abusive of the Bishops of the Catholic Church, had been bought by special favours extended to the Separate Schools, and the laity of the Province, stood as a solid phalanx at the back of the present Government which was kept in power, the following letters were addressed to (Greenfield), President of the Conservative Association of the County

and all others can and do divide their opinions in regard to them. If there are certain other subjects in which discussion is inadvisable, if unwise, ineffectual, and calculated to do no good results.

Confederation was, owing to a variety of circumstances, a compromise, and is a nature compact, solemn and, we earnestly hope and believe, enduring. It is a charter, as agreed upon by all provinces ratified by the representatives of parties in Britain, and promulgated the British North America Act, in which rights were guaranteed to the vast minority of Lower Canada the Catholic minority of this province in regard to their respective schools. It was reasonable and fair that such should be the case, and without them Confederation would have been an impossibility, and without these safeguards cannot successfully be carried on.

The Government of the provinces as seening the Crown were charged with the carrying out of the provisions of the Imperial Act appertaining to their people, and when they fail to do so in manner contemplated by the Act, it is open to the Protestants of Quebec or Catholics of Ontario to complain. It is a matter of no concern to the policy of Quebec or the Protestants of Ontario how or in what manner the policy of the other denomination are obtained or conducted, further than that all fair minded men among majority in either province will see that no injustice is done to the minority, or, if done, that they should rectify it.

I cannot call to mind an instance of complaint upon the part of the Protestant minority in Quebec in respect to the fulfillment or improper administration of the law as regards their schools, it is but just to the Catholic majority to state that neither political party among that majority has ever sought to secure this provision of the Imperial Actment in respect to the Protestant schools or its just and liberal fulfillment. Sound of attack upon the other.

Are the Protestants of Ontario less tolerant and less just than the Catholics of Quebec? Have they less respect for solemn terms of a treaty, and must go to another province and look to the men of another race than our own lessons as to how to carry out what binding upon us in honour, obligations which the Sovereign and Parliament of Great Britain have entrusted to us to

It is there behind it all a bigotry and an intolerance of the Catholic; and does Dr. Ryerson invite conservative Catholics, such as myself, to join in a crusade against the Government because it has done us

ordinary, common justice, such as British subjects we are entitled to, and less than which they could not have accorded to us without giving us the right to appeal to the Parliament of Great Britain for redress against the infraction of its enactment? Can it be that Dr. Ryerson, fresh from a content in Lambton, which in the old "No Popery" days could always be relied upon to send to the Legislature a leader in the way of religious animosity, and which has given a recent evidence of a return to its old love for its tethers of old days, is unwise enough to be misled for the moment by the thought that those evil days have returned, and are permanently upon us; that in this free province of Ontario the Catholic religion is to be placed under a ban, and that it is wise for the Conservative party to join forces with the Protestant Protective Association in its fight against a phantasmagoria which exists but in the narrow minds of those intolerant political parasites who constitute this excrecence upon the body politic? I am an older Conservative than the Doctor, who is yet in his physical adolescence, and he must excuse my saying that his intemperances will blind the Conservative party to no such programme as that now lead us into any such alliance while I have voice to protest in the name of the Scotch Catholic Conservatives of this Province.

Dr. Ryerson is, I know, of distinguished United Empire Loyalist stock. His name carries with it much that appeals to the gratitude and respect of the people of this province who cherish British institutions, for services rendered in times which tried the temper and loyalty of the first settlers in what then constituted the upper country of Canada as well as for more recent services in the development of the institutions of our province. It was for that reason that I was glad to see him enter public life, and had I been a resident of Toronto he would have had my vote and cordial support. The doctor, however, is some too old to learn and as an auditor to this lesson he appears to have received in Lambton I would ask to be permitted to inform him under what circumstances the Catholic religion was first introduced into the province and under what authority. It may surprise him to learn that it was by the United Empire Loyalists and by the authority of the King. It is well to have no misconception upon a matter of historical interest and of some importance, and I therefore quote in full the despatch of Lord Sydney, then Secretary for American and Colonial Affairs, to the Administrator of the Government in Canada. Should he wish to verify it it will be found in the Archives Series Q. 224, page 278.