

more inclined to think I am right, when I find the Archbishop of Toronto in direct contradiction with the Bishop of Montreal, when I see the latter one day anathemazing those who voted for one Free-mason, and, the next day, execrating those who refused their support to another Free-mason, when I see a Roman Catholic priest appear on the hustings as the duly authorized agent and scrutineer of an Orange candidate, who opposed a Catholic, and tell his parishioners, with foul language, that the confessional will enable him to tell how they vote in spite of the Ballot laws.

Two recent pastoral letters of His Lordship the Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal, the one published in June, on the eve of the general elections for Members of the Legislative Assembly of this Province, the other in the month of February, have greatly alarmed the Protestant minority of this Province, and have struck blind terror into the hearts of some of those Catholics who were wont to support the so-called Liberal or Reform party at the polls. The letter published in June warned the faithful that they should not countenance the party which had refused justice to the Catholics of New Brunswick, and which had ostracized the principal figure in the quasi-rebellion in Manitoba.

The letter of February denounces Liberal Catholics in no measured terms, and by a process of reasoning which it is impossible to grasp and difficult to qualify, concludes that those Catholics who are members of the Reform party are not only Liberals in the worst sense of the word; but are in a way responsible for the famous or rather infamous desecration which a zealot in our midst had committed a few weeks before at Russell Hall.

It shall be my object to show that the Roman Catholic Bishop has overstepped the bounds of his jurisdiction,—that his conduct in so doing is reprehended by the doctors of the Church, and by the laws of the land,—that the members of the Reform party are not such Liberals as are condemned by the Church, and; finally, that His Lordship has intentionally or unwittingly made use of events and discussions purely civil or political in their character, in order to influence the minds of his diocesans against one political party, and in favor of another.

The Constitution under which we live declares that British subjects in this Province have the full enjoyment of civil and political rights. Aliens are accorded civil rights only. They have no political status in the country. Political rights are the characteristic of the British subject. They are forfeited only by civil death and in virtue of certain laws of the empire. Unless they are so lost, the subject is entitled to a free and perfect enjoyment of them here as elsewhere throughout the realm. There is no power