

No. 9. Letter of Hon. W. B. Richards to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, May 30, 1853. "My Lord,—I hope the provisions of the Bill will be such as to prevent future dispute and difference. As I said before to you personally, I have endeavored to give to separate schools in U. C. the same rights and powers as the dissenting schools in Lower Canada have."

No. 10. At this period the people arose en masse throughout the country, and petitions poured into Parliament, bearing the signatures of upwards of 18,000 of the freeholders of both sections of the Canadas. At the head of these petitioners were the Archbishop of Quebec, the clergy and laity of Montreal, and M. Cauchon, the present Commissioner of Crown Lands, as leader of the famous Catholic Institute of St. Roch's.

No. 11. During this session also, the Separate School Question coming before Parliament, the Hon. Francis Hincks, the leader of the Reform government, gave the following brilliant testimony to the moderation which Bishop De Charbonnel had shown in the Separate School question:— Speech of the Hon. F. Hincks, the Premier of the Reform Government in June, '53.

"I do not believe but that if there had been anything like fair play, and what I know of the venerable prelate of the Church at Toronto, (Bishop De Charbonnel) and whom I knew for a great many years before he went to Upper Canada, and for whom I early formed a great respect, not only for his abilities, but for all his views, as far as I could ascertain them, I say, that I am perfectly certain, that it would have been quite possible to have gone on upon fair terms, if there had been anything like moderation on the other side; but I do not think that there was, and I think that that never will be, while parties have it in their power to do just as they like."

No. 12. A Bill passed this session, usually called the Separate School Act of '53, which, through the changes made in it, became partially inoperative. This Bill was denounced by the Montreal True Witness as a "mockery and a snare," and a few weeks experience proved the truth of the assertion. Soon much trouble arose from the imperfect character of the Act, and the question of its amendment became a necessity.

No. 13. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, Aug. 3rd, 1853. "My Dear Lord Bishop,—I have learned with much regret from your letter of yesterday that a fresh difficulty has arisen regarding your schools in Toronto. Believe me, my intention shall be promptly given to the subject of the grant with a view to find a remedy, if there be any attempt to obstruct the working of a law honestly intended by the Government to heal up wounds which were most injurious to the peace of society. I regret my inability to call on your Lordship and express to you personally my great respect for your worth, which I had much pleasure in doing on the floor of Parliament."

No. 14. Letter of Vicar-General Cazeau to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, 18th August, 1853. "My Lord,—I have seen Mr. Hincks. Your school question vexes him very much. He will write strongly to Mr. — to make him interpret the law in such a way as to do justice to Catholics. If the law is not interpreted as necessary a new one shall be enacted in order to require imperiously that the Catholics of Upper Canada should be treated with the same liberality as Protestants are in Lower Canada, and thus justice shall be obtained. It is a life or death question. Mr. Hincks understands it very well."

No. 15. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, Aug. 27, 1853. "My Dear Lord Bishop,—I am of course most anxious if possible that the matter should be satisfactorily adjusted by the Department, and I therefore trust that you will cause a complaint to be made to be made to Dr. — who will immediately cause the grievance to be redressed."

No. 16. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, Oct. 11, 1853. "My Dear Lord Bishop,—In reply to your enquiry, I beg to say that I would like very much to see precisely the nature of the proposed amendment to the present law. When received, it shall receive the prompt attention of the government, and we shall be able to inform you whether we will bring it forward as a government measure."

No. 17. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, Nov. 23, 1853. "My Dear Lord Bishop,—On consideration, I have taken the liberty of transmitting your letter to my friend, Mr. —, who is in my entire confidence, and who is as free as I trust I am myself from any feeling of bigotry and intolerance, such as is, I regret to say, entertained by too many Protestants towards our brethren of the Catholic persuasion. My object in sending the letter to Mr. — is, because it is so much easier to discuss such questions in conversation than by letter. Mr. — will see you on the subject, and after we fully understand one another's views, we shall be able to state to you what we can do as a government."

No. 18. Letter of the Archbishop and the Bishops of the Province to His Excellency Lord Elgin. June, 1854. "Your Excellency will not be surprised that Bishops, seeing with the deepest grief, the evils which are the ordinary consequence of mixed schools, presume to ask aid and protection to obtain a just and equitable law on behalf of the Separate Schools. They do not ask exclusive privileges; they demand simply and solely that the law which regulates Separate Schools in behalf of Protestants in Lower Canada should be extended to the Catholics of Upper Canada. It is a right which we trust they will not ask in vain from your Excellency."

No. 19. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, June 12, 1854. "My Dear Lord Bishop,—I can assure your lordship that I shall seize the earliest moment of giving my best attention to the subject, and I hope you believe that I am most anxious to meet your views."

No. 20. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, June 23, 1854. "My Dear Lord Bishop,—I have just received your Lordship's note, but I have not yet seen the paper handed to Mr. Morin, and cannot, therefore, speak with confidence as to what we may be able to do."

No. 21. Hon. A. N. Morin to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, 1 Sept. 1854. "As to your great question Mr. Hincks is all disposed to cause that the law that authorizes separate schools should be a truth."

No. 22. Vicar General Cazeau to Bishop De Charbonnel. Sept. 1854. "My Lord,—All the Lower Canadian ministers will be maintained in the Cabinet; I do not deceive myself in telling your Lordship that they agreed, as a condition to their alliance with Sir Allan, that justice shall be done to your Catholics about separate schools."

Letter of J. G. Bowes, Esq., to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, Nov. 1854. "With regard to the school bill, I have been informed by Mr. Cauchon that the Government will introduce a bill on the subject."

No. 24. Letter of Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. Kingston, Nov. 10, 1854. "My Lord,—I have had a letter from our Attorney-General, in which he promises that he will pass a bill that will be satisfactory to us all. Notwithstanding all his promises, I still feel anxious to see that some action would be taken on our school bill. I have recommended the matter to the prayers of our faithful people."

Letter of Vicar-General Cazeau to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, 28th December, 1854. "My Lord,—It has been resolved in the Council that justice should be done to the Separate Schools. Sir Allan hastens to tell me that he had always been favorable to them, and I reply that your lordship had always relied on him."

No. 26. Letter of Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. Kingston, Jan. 8, 1855. "I have deferred answering you until I had an interview with the Attorney General, who assures me that he has a school bill prepared for us in Upper Canada. He says that he gave it to the Hon. Mr. Morin, as a Catholic in communication with the Rt. Rev. Dr. De Charbonnel. The Chief Superintendent read it attentively, and said nothing against its provisions."

No. 27. Letter of Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. Kingston, Jan. 16, 1855. "I assure you that I have my misgivings about the new school bill as unobjectionable to —, and therefore I earnestly requested of the Attorney General to send us a copy of it, that we might send back to him our remarks on the margin of it. He promised to send it. He seems to have great confidence that the Hon. Mr. Morin, as a Catholic, will make the suitable amendments that may be necessary in his bill. Henry Smith, the Solicitor General, has given me the most solemn promises that our school bill will be satisfactory."

No. 28. Letter of Hon. Wm. Cayley to Bishop De Charbonnel. Kingston, Jan. 22, 1855. "My Lord,—I hasten to answer your Lordship, that the matter referred to will, without loss of time, be submitted for the consideration of the government. [Another move for the petitions which were sent from the three Dioceses, of 10,000.]"

No. 29. Letter of Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. Kingston, Feb. 2, 1855. "I do not see in what the Bishops do not agree, for as far as I am concerned I have not, to my knowledge, yet disagreed with any Bishop on the School question. I do not see how members can know that which does not exist, i.e., disagreement amongst Bishops. I am determined not to let it go with them without telling them my sentiments on it. Don't you think that Mr. Cauchon will befriend us as to the school bill? I cannot say what Mr. Cartier is disposed to do."

No. 30. Letter of the Hon. J. Cauchon to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, 1st March, 1855. "My Lord,—I am busy with your school question in a particular manner."

No. 31. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. Bytown, March 2, 1855. "My Lord—Your protestation reached me in the midst of the bush. I signed and sent it immediately to Bishop Phelan; were it lost, send a duplicate and I will sign it. We ask merely and only for the law which rules Lower Canada. Go to Quebec if you can, for you are amongst us the most able to treat the school question with the government. Try to take along Bishop Phelan to Prescott; I will go thither and give you all powers and our petitions for the schools."

No. 32. Letter of Mr. Hincks to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, Mar. 5, 1855. "I have no doubt that I shall be enabled to give my cordial support to any measure which the government may agree to for settling the question of Separate Schools."

No. 33. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. Bytown, 13th March, 1855. "Dear Lord,—I entreat you to start for Quebec with the signatures of the three Bishops; our prayers and those of all Catholics will accompany you. As to the personage you speak of I refuse him. You may say to — that if he be sent I will protest immediately against him. I would be astonished that I should give the reasons thereof."

No. 34. Letter of Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. Kingston, March 13, 1855. "Rt. Rev. Lord,—I have received your communications, with a printed copy of a project of a bill for separate schools, which is very good as to the principle, but which, in my opinion, is not sufficiently explicit in its details; therefore I took the liberty of adding to it some few words. I sent my protest to the Attorney General, and requested that such clauses referred to by your lordship would not be put in his bill. Now, as the Attorney General West has answered my protest by requesting us to put in writing such alterations and amendments to the present school act as we want, I am happy to have your project with the comparative table attached to it, that he may see what we want. I received notice by telegraph to-day from that hon. gentleman, stating that Messrs. Morin and Cazeau are preparing our bill, and requesting me again to send him my views in writing: your project, with the few words I added, comprises, I believe, all that we may require. I give you the same authority to act for me as you offered to me for yourself."

No. 35. Bishop Phelan to the Hon. Attorney-General West. March 14th, 1855. "Hon. Sir,—In accordance with your request, I send you in writing my views in respect to the Separate School Bill, which I ardently hope you will pass in the present session of Parliament. These are the views of the Bishop of Toronto, to which I added a few amendments; they are also those of the Bishop of Bytown, and of all the

good Catholics of the Province. There cannot be any doubt about our being united as to the necessity of separate schools in Upper Canada—Protestants have them in Lower Canada: all we want is that our separate schools should be established in Upper Canada on a principle similar to the separate schools in Lower Canada. You may rely on that neither peace or contentment will ever be restored until the separate schools are established on such principles of equity and fairness that no reasonable person can object thereto. It is useless to think of making half-measures, which would still leave us in the necessity of soliciting the legislature every year for additional measures in this behalf."

No. 36. Demands of the three Bishops, signed by them in Prescott, 22d March, 1855, for the Ministers.

1st. A special superintendent for separate schools, not being a Protestant clergyman. 2d. One trustee by ward, and one board for the different wards. 3rd. Free circumscription of separate schools. 4th. Equal share in public school funds, according to population or attendance; and at least free enjoyment of our own municipal taxes. 5th. Repeal of the contribution to Protestant school houses and Libraries. 6th. Repeal of the very hard annual declaration of each supporter of separate schools. 7th. The Act to be in force from Jan. 1st, 1855.

No. 37. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Vicar-General Cazeau. March 25, 1855.

"Mr. Vicar-General,—The Bishop of Toronto went down to Quebec fully determined to succeed. The three Bishops of U. C. met at Prescott to give him full power; and if he should require new ones, we should give them to him for we are decided to push the matter through come what may. Have the kindness to interest yourself as much as possible in a work which is so intimately connected with the welfare of religion."

No. 38. Letter of Judge J. N. Morin to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, April 4, 1855.

"My Lord,—You have my project of a Bill which you may dispose of as you please, and which does not deserve so much gratitude as your lordship's kindness leads you to express."

No. 39. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. Bytown, April 4, 1855.

"Dear Lord,—I am convinced that your presence and our union will serve to ameliorate the new Bill. The moment is come at last to obtain at least some justice. Rely ALWAYS on our co-operation."

No. 40. Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. April 11th, 1855.

"Rt. Rev. Lord,—The only way to overcome fear by fear is to get a majority of the members in our favor for that measure, and thus to compel the ministry to have it brought before the House and of course to favor it: if the Rouges are for us, I do not see why you could not succeed."

No. 41. Letter of Bishop Phelan to Hon. Attorney General Macdonald. Kingston, 11th April, 1855.

"Hon. Sir,—Although you informed me in your last letter that it is, and always was, your object to enable the Catholics of Upper Canada to educate their youth in their own way, it does not appear however at present that you intend making, at this Session, any of the amendments in the present School Act which you required me to communicate in writing to you; if this be the case, what was the use of asking me for my views on the subject of the separate schools? I am aware of your difficulties on this point: the chief superintendent of schools of Canada West especially being opposed to any measure that would be favorable to our separate schools, and consequently determined to prevent, if possible, the amendments we require. But I trust neither you nor the ministry will be prevented from doing us justice by your allowing us the same rights and privileges for our separate schools as are granted to the Protestants of L. C.— If this be done at the present session we will have no reason to complain, and the odium thrown upon you for being controlled by Dr. Ryerson will be effectually removed. If, on the contrary, the voice of our opponent upon the subject of separate schools is more attended to and respected than the voice of the Catholic Bishops, the clergy, and nearly 200,000 of Her Majesty's loyal Catholic subjects, claiming justice for the education of their youth, surely the ministry that refuses us such rights cannot blame us for being displeased with them, and consequently for being determined to use every constitutional means in our power to prevent their future return to Parliament. This of course will be the disagreeable alternative to which we shall be obliged to have recourse, if full justice be not done us at this session with regard to our separate schools. I have the honor to be, hon. sir, your most obedient servant,

† PATRICK, Bishop of Carthage, Administrator Apostolic of the Diocese of Kingston.

"Hon. J. A. Macdonald, Attorney General West." This was sent to the Attorney General with the concurrence of the two other Bishops of Canada West.

No. 42. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, April 17, 1855.

"Dear Lord,—Mr. Langevin gives me hope that you will come off successful in the struggle for Separate Schools. May the hope be realized! But pray! insist much that Catholics may themselves circumscribe their school sections."

No. 43. Letter of the Bishop of St. Hyacinthe to Bishop De Charbonnel. St. Hyacinthe, April 18, 1855.

"Militant Lord,—Our crusade is for equal justice and true liberty. If this Session do not give you your rights, it is an insult to Catholicity; and the Bishops have no cause to hesitate any longer."

No. 44. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. Bytown, April 22, 1855.

"Dear Lord,—I am waiting with impatience for the result of our demands, and the promises which have been made. We play a part truly humiliating by praying and supplicating in order to obtain not a favor but what ought to be conceded the humblest citizen; for it is only the exercise of an inherent right. Fortunately we can bear witness of ourselves, that in making these demands we fulfil a duty, and duty is never humiliation. But what to think of a government which finds itself in the humiliating position of our ministers? For they cannot conceal from themselves that Mr. — is playing an hypocritical part. Since he acknowledges the rights of Catholics, declaring at the same time that he has caused clauses to be inserted in the law which will annihilate those very rights. Nor can they but see that there is a monstrous injustice in depriving of its rights a large proportion of the inhabitants of Upper Canada. That by accomplishing this act of justice they would only rouse a fanatical opposition which would be naturally without

strength on account of its promoters being unable to show honorable cause for it. I believe with you that if our petition is without effect, we will be compelled to enter the arena in the midst of the electoral contest. No doubt it will be a painful step to take; but we will be conscious of having been drawn into it against our wishes. It was through the medium of great injustice on the part of the government towards the Catholics of Bytown that the Ottawa Tribune was started. It will probably be to the unjust refusal of Separate Schools that we will be indebted for the union of Catholics. That union will be powerful enough to throw out those members which are opposed to us; and even Mr. —, if he denied his antecedents in regard to Separate Schools, for the Catholics are the third of the County. I tell you all this with the utmost confidence, and I hasten to add that I still hope not to be forced into such a course."

No. 45. Letter of Col. Tache to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, May 23, 1855.

"My Lord,—The expression of the approbation of your lordship concerning the little I have done for the cause of the education of the Catholic children in Upper Canada is very agreeable to me; though in my opinion I am convinced I fulfilled only a duty, by following at a distance the traces of the beautiful zeal of which your lordship has given so many proofs for the support of the faith of our ancestors in the midst of persecutions and troubles of every description. (The Bill passed refusing the demand expressed in number 29, and imposing one extra shackle, the 2 months clause.)"

No. 46. Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. June 5th, 1855.

"Rt. Rev. Lord,—I am in receipt of the late Act passed in Parliament on the separate schools in Upper Canada, and I must confess I am very much disappointed in it, because I see many alterations have been made, (for its third reading,) and these alterations have been the work of some very unfriendly hand."

No. 47. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. June 12, 1855.

"Dear Lord,—I intended to thank you for the Bill of Separate Schools, for which we are indebted to your efforts. I knew that Bill only by its second reading. The third unfortunately came to modify it. But it is certainly not your fault. The Parliament will sit next year in Toronto. I am persuaded that we will obtain again certain amendments."

No. 48. Letter of the Hon. G. E. Cartier, Provincial Secretary, to Bishop De Charbonnel. 13 June, 1855.

"My Lord,—I have had the honor to receive and lay before His Excellency, the Governor General, your lordship's letter of the 5th inst., tendering your resignation of your office as a member of the Council of Public Instruction."

No. 49. Letter of Vicar-General Cazeau to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, June 14, 1855.

"My Lord,—A minister communicated to me your letters written to the Governor General and the Provincial Secretary on the 3rd inst. The step is a sharp one, and I am convinced that your lordship did not fail to calculate well its bearings, however, I beg to suggest to your Lordship whether it would not be better to withdraw those letters."

No. 50. Answer of the Bishop of Toronto to Vicar-General Cazeau. Penetanguishene, June, '55.

"Mr. Vicar General,—I like your letter of representations. It is the language of a true friend. I love you more for it; and be kind enough to speak to me always with the same frankness even when your conscience and mine will not meet. But try to find and read the bill such as the third reading has made it; and probably you will come to my opinion. As before sending the two letters in question I had consulted the most prudent men who live around me, I cannot but regret the conduct of the ministers who, according to the unanimity of my friends have deserved more than those two letters expressed. My two colleagues think as I do. I have their letters. If they have expressed their satisfaction, I was the first to do so, speaking of the Bill at its 2nd reading, but not as contemplated by the third reading. As to withdrawing my two letters I am prepared for it if the ministry is prepared to send me a new pledge that within the two first months of the next session they will introduce the amendments of the three Bishops; the second of which will be to blot out all the stains by which their Bill has been polluted before them against a majority twice secured to their will to do us justice. Please to thank again Mr. Tache, and help me to pity the other Catholic ministers who have pushed us to the extreme. For the Protestants they cannot understand neither the right of the church nor her anger against the murderers of her children in mixed schools."

No. 51. Vicar-General Cazeau to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, June 18, 1855.

"My Lord,—I received your letter of the 14th. I hasten to assure your Lordship that I partake of your astonishment and indignation, therefore, I retract my last which I wrote to you under an erroneous impression."

No. 52. Letter of the Bishop of Bytown to Bishop De Charbonnel. Bytown, July 3, 1855.

"Dear Lord,—I am anxious to re-assure you on the important point of Separate Schools which you have so much at heart. When I wrote to Mr. Cazeau to thank the ministers for the Separate School Bill, I was under the impression that it had remained in the same state as it was when it passed the second reading. But after having read attentively the Bill as it finally passed I remarked that it had been very much altered, and let Mr. Cazeau know the pain which these alterations would give both to the clergy and the people. A division amongst the Bishops is no more to be feared for the future than for the present."

No. 53. Vicar-General Cazeau to Bishop De Charbonnel. Quebec, July 7, 1855.

"My Lord,—Your Lordship must have received my letter of apology. I looked upon it as my duty to send my protest to Col. Tache, sending to him at the same time an extract of the letter containing your grievances and an extract of a letter of the Bishop of Bytown, who expresses also his dissatisfaction. I wanted to prove to our rulers that you are not the only one complaining. It is reported that Mr. — succeeded in introducing the amendment which destroyed all your labors, and that he boasted subsequently that he had tricked the Catholics."

No. 54. Bishop Phelan to Bishop De Charbonnel. July 11, 1855.

"Rt. Rev. Lord,—I see that Dr. Ryerson gives his own interpretation to our new School Bill, stating that the amendment of 1851 is repealed, but it is our Attorney-General's opinion that it is not repealed: the doctor reads in our reports 'the daily attendance' instead of 'the average attendance'; now our Solicitor General, Mr. Smith, has blotted out the word daily, and authorizes the Rev. Mr. Tolland to hold to this."