

the favours of Heaven, and appoint a Thanksgiving therefor? If our Governor does not lay aside the profession of Christianity on taking the oath of office, why may he not *rule* as a Christian?

Much of the opposition felt to such an observance, however, arises without doubt, more from prejudice than from conscientious scruples. England has no annual Thanksgiving—a fact which, of itself, is decisive against such a thing in the opinion of some people. And further, whenever an occasional Fast or Thanksgiving has been appointed, the Sovereign, as head of the Establishment and keeper of the national conscience, has usually *commanded* its observance, under pain of the Royal displeasure—a form of proclamation which, we need not say, is highly objectionable. But, in the first place, we have to confess that, dear as the old land is to us, and much as we admire her institutions generally, *every* good thing is not to be found in England. And secondly, while we should protest as earnestly as any one against the assumption of any *authority* in such matters, by the civil Government, we can see no possible objection to its naming a day for such a purpose, and *recommending* its observance throughout the land. *New England*, than which no country can be more jealous of State interference in ecclesiastical affairs, has had its Thanksgiving Day for generations past, and a right hearty, social and religious occasion it is! It is *the* Festival of the year, whose approach is hailed with a delight above that of all other days—the annual *family re-union* all over the land! Who would not wish to transplant it to Canadian soil?

But that can never be until the Government takes the initiative, and appoints the day. Denominational jealousies alone will prevent it. Archbishop Lynch will not accept the appointment of the Protestant Metropolitan, and *vice versa*, while the non-conformist bodies will be scarcely less averse to taking their *cue* from either of them. The result will be that there will be no *simultaneousness* in the observance; business will proceed as usual, and Thanksgiving, in any proper sense, there will be none!

Why, then, have we no National Thanksgiving? We fear the only answer to the question is, as the *Montreal Witness* asserts, that “our Dominion Government has decided, out of deference to the Church of Rome, to decline to appoint” one. We have been unwilling to believe it, but we are forced to the conclusion, that the religious as well as the political interests of this country are just now at the almost absolute control of the French Catholic Members of the Cabinet at Ottawa.