

for or against any particular candidate at an election, I have taken no active part, not even so much as to give an advice in any instance; nor can any man truly charge me with doing so.

But as that reason for my silence no longer exists, and as my silence seems to have been mistaken for an inability to answer your Lordship's statements and imputations, in consequence of which, one or two respectable journals in Lower Canada, have been led into the error of supposing that there was some ground for your Lordship's charges, I will briefly reply to them.

In my last annual report, I stated that supporters of separate schools in Upper Canada occupy the same position in respect to the public schools as do the supporters of separate schools in Lower Canada. Your Lordship charges me with the "direct assertion of falsehood," with asserting the "reverse of truth" on this subject.

Before noticing your Lordship's charges in detail, I may remark that when public men have said that they will advocate granting the same privileges to the Catholics in Upper Canada as are enjoyed by Protestants in Lower Canada, they are quite right, and say no more than I have said from the beginning—no more than I have sincerely intended—no more than each succeeding administration has intended—no more than the late Attorney General (now Judge) Richards believed was fully secured to them by the Supplementary School Act for 1853; for after he and I had gone over the several clauses of the *fourth* section (relative to separate schools) of the supplementary school bill, he asked me if the supporters of the separate schools were now placed on the same footing in Upper Canada as in Lower Canada; I replied I believed they were in every respect—that in some particulars there was a difference in the *mode* of proceeding in the two sections of Canada, arising from the existence of municipal councils and assessments in Upper Canada, and the payment of all school moneys by county and town treasurers, which did not exist in Lower Canada—that in regard to these peculiarities, nothing was required of the trustees of separate schools, which was not required of trustees of public schools, with the single exception that in the semi-annual returns of the former the names of children and their parents or guardians were included, with the amounts of their school subscriptions, in order that it might be known whom to exempt from the payment of public school taxes. But I desired the Attorney General to examine for himself the provisions of the two laws in regard to separate schools. At his request, I took the school law of Upper Canada as existing and as proposed, and he took the school law of Lower Canada, and went over the provisions clause by clause relative to dissentient schools, while I referred him to the corresponding clauses of the school law of Upper Canada; and after he had finished, he said the equality in the two cases was perfect, and he was prepared to defend it. After this examination, and with this conviction, the Attorney General, with the concurrence of his colleagues, brought the bill before the Legislative Assembly, and it was passed—after which, and for several months, your Lordship's newspaper organs boasted of it as subverting the foundation of our public school system, which your Lordship had so fiercely denounced, and would soon secure its overthrow. This turns out to have been a great mistake—our school system is neither shaken in its foundations, nor impeded in its progress; and now your Lordship manufactures new charges against