

TO THE READER.

The publication of these letters has been undertaken with the two-fold object of showing : 1st. That all the attacks upon our National School system have come from the foreign ecclesiastics lately imported from the continent of Europe ; and 2nd. That these claim a power in the State,—not the right of aliens,—not concurred in by the vast majority of Canadian Catholics (as they themselves admit)—but antagonistic to the spirit of that British constitutional freedom which we boast has become more perfectly developed in our Canadian institutions than in those of the fatherland.

A word may also be added in regard to the authors of the letters here given : None of them have been consulted, and none of them—so far as we know—are aware of their present publication,—certainly Dr. Ryerson is not. Perhaps in addition to arousing public attention to the manœuvres of the “new foreign element,” their publication may rebuke the puerile taunts of certain newspaper writers against one of the public officers of the Province, who shewed more regard for the dignity of his position, and for the credit of his country, than to notice the petty offers of a “joint-stock publication business” with a subordinate member of the “new foreign ecclesiastical element’.

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