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THE WILL OF A MAJORITY.

One of the hollowest shams of the men who set themselves to the task of removing our Church out of the way, was the pretence that the people were to be consulted, and that whenever there was a majority opposed to entering the new Church, the wishes of that majority were to be respected. In the bills passed by the local legislatures, there were even clauses inserted to give effect to such an expression of opinion. Great credit was taken for the liberality with which we were treated in this respect. When the matter was discussed before the two Houses at Quebec, much stress was laid upon this, and it was, in fact, only the solemn assertions of the promoters of the Bills there (in the Legislature of Ontario there was no opportunity afforded for remonstrance) that every precaution had been taken to preserve the right of the minority, that they were passed.

But what was the process employed to stifle the voice of the majorities in Congregations before the final scene at the Skating Rink, the conclusion of a series of the most extraordinary violations of constitutional safeguards that has probably ever been witnessed. We have already given some facts bearing upon this point, but it may not be without benefit to refer briefly to some of the schemes resorted to. In most Congregations it is the case, as a usual rule, that the members are diffident of expressing an opinion in opposition to the wishes of their minister. It is also the case, usually, that the minister, as Moderator of Session, has a controlling, almost despotic power; especially when, as was the fact in the present instance, every exertion had been used to create a *factitious, ignorant public clamour in favour of a particular course*. It is easy to see from these considerations with what facility the real mind of a Congregation could be misrepresented, and returns of the most fallacious