

on the outposts of our Zion, to detect the stealthy approaches of the foe—to penetrate his designs—estimate aright his forces, and to give faithful and prompt alarm where and to what extent our liberties and rights are endangered. Our observations lead us to report that the enemy in yearly increasing force, swelling now to nearly 250,000, confronts us in every portion of our field. They are actively employed under able and skillful leaders, in strengthening their position and preparing for the occupation of posts which future aggressive movements may place within their power. They are nowhere idle; and their activity is guided by an executive of talent and energy.

Of late years their aggressions in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, have been signally repulsed. Their unrestrained progress and their habitual success had emboldened them to assume a defiant attitude, and press their advances beyond the dictates of ordinary prudence. Startled by the dominant tones of a dictatorial priesthood, the Protestants awoke to a sense of their position and dangers, and by active and combined exertions under the blessing of God, the lost territory was regained, and Roman Catholics were compelled to feel that an authority superior to theirs existed in these Provinces. They are now feeling their way for fresh aggressions.—They are a power, a mighty power in the land, and that power must and will command influence. It cannot be ignored. The pressure of it is daily felt by all our Provincial Governments. It will accept no compromise except as a stepping stone to the attainment of supreme power.

We must be prepared to bow the neck under its yoke, or offer vigorous and effective resistance in time.

We can only array some 90,000 in opposition to their 250,000; hence an alliance with those who are one with us in the great principles of Protestantism, is indispensable to a successful resistance. These alliances have been the main cause of the success which has been attained in the Provinces already mentioned. As the formation and efficient maintenance of Protestant Alliances, make a large demand on the efforts and energies of such as are zealous for the establishment and progress of Protestantism, we would respectfully solicit a renewed commendation from this Synod of such combinations for scriptural and patriotic ends.

Beyond a few inconsiderable perverts, the main efforts of the Roman Catholic Church in the way of aggression, are directed to the attainment of political power in the Legislature and Executive of these Provinces; that by means of such power a superior social status may be enjoyed, the hereditary odium cleaving to Popery wiped away, and pecuniary grants obtained, to maintain or establish Colleges and Nunneries for the propagation of their faith.

This species of aggression must be met by a Scriptural and conscientious exercise of civil rights on the part of our people. This end can be secured by a pains-taking and faithful enlightenment of our adherents, without in any way committing them in all respects to any political party.

Your Committee have also been led to enquire, whether this Synod is discharging its duty to our Roman Catholic fellow subjects, so many of whom have sprung from the same race with ourselves, bear our own names, and live in our midst. Are the errors of Popery really destructive to the souls of men? Are these our fellow countrymen living by tens of thousands in these deadly errors? Are we doing all we can for their illumination and salvation, by simply arousing a political resistance to their political aggression?