

to the religion and spirit of the great majority of the people of Upper Canada, and is sufficient to account for your efforts to seek the destruction of our public schools and school system. In reply, might I not assert as fact, apart from theology, that the essential principle and life of Protestantism is liberty, and that no true Protestant can be a religious persecutor; and that the liberty and rights enjoyed by Roman Catholics in the Protestant countries of Great Britain and the United States, as compared with the liberty and rights enjoyed by Protestants in the Italian States of the Pope, afford a happy commentary on the liberality, the modesty, the intelligence and the truth of the assertion, that "Protestantism is intolerant in its very nature;" and that "among Protestants, all are slaves except Protestants."

I have only to remark in conclusion, that it has not been my object in this communication to express an opinion as to whether or not the school law is susceptible of amendment or improvement on the subject referred to. In regard to allegations against the school law and its administration, I intimated in my last annual report, that an investigation of them by a government commission or parliamentary committee, would be just to the school system and equally just to all parties. Your Lordship seems to prefer the mode of making addresses at Institutes in Toronto and Quebec on the subject, to the method of public inquiry, where both sides can be heard, and where assertions are weighed in the impartial balance of intelligence and justice. There is no accounting for tastes; but as your Lordship has chosen to charge me before popular audiences, and through the newspapers, with injustice in my official acts, and falsehoods in my official statements, rather than meet me at the tribunal of a governmental or parliamentary inquiry, I have been compelled to write and publish this letter. Whether I have acted unjustly towards the Roman Catholics—whether I have not treated them with the same consideration that I have any other religious persuasion in Upper Canada, I am prepared to answer before any tribunal of inquiry which may be appointed; and whether your Lordship or I have made incorrect statements, any one can judge after reading your Lordship's assertions above quoted, and my answers to them.

I have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's faithful servant,

(Signed)

E. RYERSON.

The Right Reverend Dr. DE CHARBONNEL,
Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto.

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