

PRIESTLY PLOT AGAINST THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.

"Ignorance is the Mother of Devotion."—PRIESTCRAFT.

There is no fact more apparent in our Provincial History, than that it has been the policy of the Government, heretofore guided by the Clergy of the Episcopal denomination, to keep the people in ignorance. The munificent provision for Common School instruction, made in the infancy of the Colony, before the Hydra of Priestism had raised its head amongst us, has never been devoted to its legitimate object, but has been notoriously wasted and destroyed to the present day; and the little light of instruction which had been meted out to the population, before the passing of the late School Bill, was, as far as it could be done, put under the management of a favored and pensioned Sect. This party determined, if possible, to keep the people perpetually in leading-strings to the 'God-fathers' and 'God-mothers' appointed for them by their political Chief Priests, and to educate "the herd" only in the literature of despotism and High-churchism. Hence the Catechism of the Sect was found interwoven with all our elementary School Books, and every possible difficulty thrown in the way of Trustees or Teachers of Schools who were Non-conformists. Among the blessings of our first Responsible administration, under Mr. Baldwin and his colleagues, the present School Bill, with its wise, free and liberal provisions, was obtained; and, it should be engraven upon the heart of every freeman in the Province, that no sooner had the mechanism of this new and admirable means to raise the standard of popular intelligence, been put in motion, than the Clergy of that Sect every where rose in arms against it. *Shortly after the sitting of last Session of Parliament, 'THE CHURCH SOCIETY OF TORONTO,' under Bishop Strachan and his familiars, got up petitions from all parts of the Province, TO REPEAL THE SCHOOL ACT!* And they will, without any doubt, follow up their iniquitous purpose more determinedly next Session. They complain of the measure *because it is not religious!* or in other words, because the Paw of the Priests, cannot now with success be laid upon the People, to keep them both in religious and political ignorance and bondage; and they, *very religiously and CRAFTILY, want the money to be divided! in order that, under the covert of law, they may appropriate the LION'S share to their own despotic purposes.*

FRIENDS OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—awake! and ward off the calamity which is pending over you and your children! The vitalising atmosphere of sound knowledge, arising from a free and unfettered system of education, has just begun to be felt in the Colony;—go not back again as willing slaves, amidst the poisonous miasma—the deadly malaria—of the Schools of a corrupt, mercenary, and anti-christian Priesthood. The School Bill has, of course, like all new measures, its defects; which, time and experience will have removed. But that man would be a fool indeed, who would countenance the cutting down of a sound and vigorous tree, because there were a few rotten branches which required to be removed by the pruning knife. Petitions should be got up in every locality against this dark plot against the liberties of the country.

"The Schoolmaster is Abroad."

Our readers should also remember that EGERTON RYERSON, the hired tool of the party now in power, has been sent to examine the Educational Systems of the various Despotisms of EUROPE, and, Judas-like, may soon attempt to introduce them into this Pro-

vince. Watch everything—n System," tha country! Th the people,

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