

clerical body, as in Scotland. Education is in reality not only not repressed, but is encouraged by the Popish (!) Church, and is a mighty instrument in its hand and ably used." Hence the celebrated Protestant statesman, Guizot, published lately that the far best school of respect towards authority is the Catholic school. "In every street in Rome," continues Laing, "there are, at *short distances*, public primary schools for the education of the children of the lower and middle classes in the neighbourhood. Rome, with a population of 158,678 souls, has 372 primary schools (and some more according to the official statement) with 482 teachers, and 14,000 children attending them. Has Edinburgh so many schools for the instruction of those classes?"

And you know Rev. Doctor, that Scotland is one of the boasted lands of common schools.

Therefore, since your school system is the ruin of religion, and persecution for our Church: since we know, *at least* as well as any body else, how to encourage, diffuse, promote education, (Laing,) and better than you (Guizot,) how to teach respect towards authority: God and his Church, parent and government; since we are under the blessed principles of religious liberty and equal civil right, we must have, and we will have, the full management of our schools, as well as Protestants in Lowe. Canada; or the world of the 19th century will know that here, as elsewhere, Catholics, against the constitution of the country, against its best and most sacred interests, are persecuted by the most cruel and hypocritical persecution.

I have the honor to be, Rev. Doctor,

Your humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) J. ARMEDUS. FR. MY,  
Bp. of Toronto.

Rev. Dr. E. Ryerson,  
Chief Superintendent of Schools,  
Toronto.

V. Letter from the Chief Superintendent of Schools to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto, in reply to the foregoing:

Department of Public Instruction,

EDUCATION OFFICE,  
TORONTO, 24th April, 1852.

MY LORD,—The receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo was promptly acknowledged by Mr. Hodgins in my absence: and continued official engagements, since my return, having prevented an earlier reply, I have now to observe, that, finding your allusion to the coloured people of the

town of Chatham not sustained by a communication from themselves, I did not deem it necessary to correct your mistake, or advert to the circumstance in my reply. Having received a complaint from the coloured people of Chatham, respecting their affairs, I replied to them, and wrote to the Board of School Trustees in Chatham on the same subject. I did not, therefore, think it necessary to allude further to the subject in my reply to your Lordship.

As to my alleged omission in regard to the complaint respecting the Roman Catholic School in the town of Chatham, I received a letter from the Trustees of that School, and enclosed to your Lordship a copy of my reply to their communications.

In regard to Goldsmith's Elementary History of England, your Lordship did not intimate that the Roman Catholic children were compelled to use it contrary to the wishes of their parents or guardians, but simply represented that it was used in the mixed school; and it was to this point that my remarks on the subject in reply were directed. I confined myself to general remarks on the point for another reason—namely: from the fact that there being a separate Roman Catholic School in Chatham, the conductors of it could have no personal interest or concern as to what text books were used in the mixed school, from all connection with which they had formally withdrawn.

As to the claim of the Trustees of the Separate School to share in the school moneys of the town of Chatham for 1851, they could not be sanctioned by law, since the school was not applied for until March of that year, and the 19th section of the School act does not permit the alteration of any School Section, or the establishment of any separate school before the 25th of December in any one year.\*

Having thus replied to the complaints preferred by your Lordship, I would not avert to other topics which your Lordship has introduced, were not my silence liable to misconception, and did I not feel it my duty to defend, as well as to explain and impartially administer the Common School system which the Legislature has established in Upper Canada;—a system which has been in operation for ten years; which was cordially approved of and supported by the late lamented Roman Catholic Bishop Power; which was never

\* "Provided always that each such separate school shall go into operation at the same time with alterations in school sections."—*First Provision, in 19th section of the School Act.*—"Provided secondly, that any alterations in the boundaries of a school section shall not go into effect before the Twenty-fifth day of December, next after the time when it shall have been made."—*Second Provision in fourth clause of 18th section of the School Act.*

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