

been forced upon him and which has been accepted with great reluctance. Before coming in close contact with the Roman Catholic system he contended more than once that it was a branch of Christ's Church. Better acquaintance with it has forced him to abandon that position. A religion that teaches a consecrated wafer to be God, not as some suppose a representation of Jesus the Son of God, but the body, soul and divinity of our Lord, a religion which teaches that when one partakes of the consecrated wafer, one is literally eating Jesus Christ, body, soul, divinity; a religion which asks its professors to prostrate themselves before that consecrated wafer and worship it as God, cannot by the utmost stretch of charity be regarded as other than gross idolatry. Unless such practices are idolatrous we must confess ignorance as to the nature of idolatry.

We believe the Roman Catholic Church which now has control of the Province of Quebec is out of harmony with the genius of modern civilization and christianity. Yet we have faith in Quebec. We have faith in Providence. The people of Quebec are fit for better things. They are our brothers and fellow-citizens. We desire to remove all barriers that now cause irritation. If after these are removed the Lower Canadians continue Romanists we trust we have humanity enough to respect them for possessing honest convictions. If they, voluntarily will contribute more than they do now towards the support of their Church we shall have no occasion to find fault. If they establish schools for the teaching of religion, so long as they contribute to these of their own accord we shall not complain. We accord to the Roman Catholics of the Dominion the same conditions which we ask for ourselves. We want to be placed upon common ground. We fear not the consequences. We know truth will triumph. We ask our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens to meet us on this ground. Towards them we cherish no bitterness. We believe them to be sadly in error. We believe they will soon cast their errors away. We do not believe Quebec will continue Roman Catholic. There are signs of awakening. Its long slumber will soon be ended. There were precursors to the great Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. The Reformation did not begin with Luther. It did not originate in his great soul. Like all great men he had fore-runners who prepared the way for him. There was deep dissatisfaction and uneasiness before his time. There was darkness and gloom. But the embers of discontent were glowing under the ashes. These were ready to kindle into flame when the proper