

on. It was not legislation from constituencies so constituted, or from a Legislature so constituted, that Mr. Brown, as a strong Protestant, feared, or had reason to fear, future encroachments. His grievance as a Protestant and an Upper Canadian was, of legislation by a Legislature elected by constituencies so constituted that Protestant electors had not a representation therein proportionate even to their numbers; not to speak of their greater proportionate wealth or of other considerations; his complaint was, of legislation for Upper Canada forced on it in such a Legislature by Lower Canada votes, notwithstanding vigorous resistance by a Protestant majority from Upper Canada. Whether an Ontario Government were Conservative or Reform, a pretence of serious danger under our present Constitution would, in Mr. Brown's eyes, strong Protestant though he was, be ridiculous and contrary to common sense; and I venture to say that, when the present excitement passes away, all intelligent Protestants, without distinction of party, will feel this, if they are not perceiving it already. It is easy for our assailants to cry wolf. It is easy for them to say, however falsely, that the Ontario Government and Legislature are slaves to the Romish hierarchy, that we have entered into a conspiracy to destroy our Public Schools, and the like; and those assertions, however false and absurd, may be accepted without question by their political adherents. But what as to others? They need some appearance at least of proof, though vigorous and reiterated assertions sometimes mislead intelligent men to accept very inadequate proof.

What then is the pretended proof of our slavish subserviency to a Church which is not ours? When our assailants go beyond mere vigor of assertion, they generally refer to one or other of three things—(1) excessive patronage to Roman Catholics, (2) the French schools in Ontario, and (3) our Separate School legislation. As to the patronage, the fact is that the aggregate value of the offices given to Roman Catholics is less than the proportion which Roman Catholics bear to the whole population. I dealt with that subject in my speech a few days ago at Woodstock. I showed in the same speech that our course in regard to French Schools was such as to give us a fresh claim on the confidence of the English-speaking Protestant people. I purpose doing the same now in respect of our Separate School legislation, which has been misrepresented and misconstrued.

OUR AMENDMENTS

of the Separate School law, as we found it, were made some years