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Ry. S. Stephens

A COUNTER MANDEMENT

TO THAT OF THE R.C. BISHOPS; WITH REASONS WHY
SEPARATE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ABOLISHED
THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION.

We should explain by way of introduction that, thinking a letter criticising the separate school policy of our Dominion Government might if addressed to Sir Oliver Mowat, tend to damp his zeal somewhat in the good cause of Romanism; which, in the past he has seemed much inclined to espouse, it was written and sent to him. And as this is a subject of very general interest at present, we have thought that its publication and circulation in pamphlet form might be a means of doing a much needed good to others.

With a very slight alteration in different parts, the following is a copy of the letter:—

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The entire abolition of Separate Schools in the Dominion is the lowest position we take. The unequivocal, outspoken words of the Romish hierarchy touching its avowed and unchanging relation to Protestants and Protestantism, past, present, and future, would certainly seem to justify a still more advanced position.

Having before us the Dominion of Canada as an illustration, I would premise that a country which cannot as advancing circumstances may require, and wisdom dictate, alter its own constitution, what is it? It is either in a condition of servile dependency upon an imperial power, or it has, by its unwise conditions of federation voluntarily shackled itself, signed away its freedom, and with it its common sense! And as for this hue and cry about Manitoba "Separate Schools," why, in my judgment, as based on historical data relative to Rome's treasonable designs, past and present, every separate school in the Dominion should be closed and closed forever before the expiration of another year. If Federation made a blunder, that blunder should be rectified. And if a country hasn't power to do it, I again ask, what is it? Why it is, in this respect, in a state of moral and intellectual serfdom. To dispossess all successive generations of men of all power and

MS. 1896