

SIR ROBERT PEEL, BART. (1849).—To make vaccination compulsory, as in some despotic countries, would be so opposite to the mental habits of the British people, and the freedom of opinion wherein they rightly glory, that I never could be a party to such compulsion.

How much longer will the docile people of Ontario be content to be hoodwinked by the doctors ?

OVERTHROW OF COMPULSORY VACCINATION IN SWITZERLAND.

The people of Switzerland have been greatly stirred by the attempt to force upon them a vaccination law of more than ordinary stringency. This *projet de loi*, known as the *epidemiem gesetz*, which rendered vaccination compulsory in 22 cantons, was passed by the Federal Chambers on January 31st last, and was the outcome of united action on the part of the Swiss Medical Commission, which had ascertained by a post card inquiry that out of 1,168 members of the profession, 1,122 were favorable to vaccination. The law was promulgated on February 14th, when, its oppressive character becoming known (the penalties being from 5 to 2,000 francs, or one year's imprisonment, according to the gravity of the offence), the people decided at once to exercise the right of a referendum, or appeal from the decisions of the Chambers to the suffrages of the people. This Constitutional right can only be utilized provided 30,000 signatures are obtained within 90 days. So great, however, was the public interest, and so pronounced the determination to throw off this yoke, that within the period prescribed upwards of 80,000 signatures were laid before the President of the Republic. The popular and final vote was taken on the 30th July, and in a despatch from Professor Vogt, of Berne University, I learn that notwithstanding the most vigorous efforts on the part of the medical faculty and their friends, who spared neither trouble nor expense in circulating their appeals, the law has been rejected by a majority of 253,968 votes, or about four for every one who voted in the affirmative, only one canton (Neuchatel) having a majority in favor of the law. The result has given a fresh impulse to the international movement against compulsory vaccination in Holland, Belgium, and Germany, and the leaders of the agitation in the latter country are confident that the Reichstag will follow the example of Switzerland, and repeal the German Vaccination Law at the next session. In order to co-operate in this important undertaking, the executive committee of the International Anti-Vaccination League has just decided to hold the third International Anti-Vaccination Congress at Berlin in January next, and arrangements will be made to secure the representation of all countries where this medical prescript on is enforced by municipal or Imperial statutes.—Yours faithfully, WILLIAM TEBB, 114 Victoria Street, Westminster, August 10th. (Mr. TEBB is the Honorary Secretary for the Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society.)

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“PULPIT CRITICISM,” by the same author, sold at HAWKINS & Co.’s, 67 Yonge Street. Price \$1.00 per annum.