

of the most talented of the Roman Catholic clergy; but in order to promote the common welfare, I respectfully submit them for consideration and early action, to you as a prominent member of a Government into whose power has come much of the destiny of the whole province.

Richmond, C. E., 7th July, 1865.

NUMBER X.

To the Hon. A. T. GALT:

Sir,—There are those both in and out of Parliament, who are constantly reiterating that what is granted to the Protestant minority in Lower Canada, in regard to the common school system and its management, should also be granted to the Roman Catholic minority in Upper Canada.

This statement would seem to be based on the assumption that the circumstances, objects, and claims of the one, are similar to those of the other: whereas, in fact, they are wholly unlike.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND CLAIMS OF THE TWO MINORITIES.

The common and grammar schools of the Protestant majority in Upper Canada, are unsectarian and national; open alike to all; interfering with the rights of conscience of none: nay, even making special provision to enable the clergymen of all denominations (Protestant and Catholic) to impart doctrinal instruction to the children of their respective churches; and, as is generally conceded by those best competent to judge, these institutions are admirably calculated to fit the youth to perform well their duties as citizens.

The schools of the majority in Lower Canada are sectarian and anti-national,—virtually closed to all but Catholics, and chiefly employed in teaching, along with the rudiments of learning, the creed and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church.

The circumstances of the Protestant minority in Lower Canada and the Catholic minority in Upper Canada, are therefore wholly unlike.

The R. C. minority in Upper Canada are asking to be permitted to establish, by law, strictly sectarian schools; the Protestant minority in Lower Canada are generally desirous of securing the complete establishment and unfettered development of a non-sectarian system of public schools, like that of the majority of Upper Canada, for the training together of the youth of the Province of all nationalities and creeds.

The objects of the two minorities are therefore totally dissimilar.

But the Roman Catholic leaders affirm that they cannot send their children to national, any more than to Protestant schools, without doing violence to their consciences: and that therefore they claim the right to establish by law separate or ecclesiastical schools.