

of religious truth may be. The commissioners also were of that opinion. They expressly recommended in their report "that Catholics and Protestants be compelled to go to their own service, and be prevented from going to any other, unless with the written consent of the clergyman of whom they are in charge."

It may be correct that the Warden's action in this matter (whatever it was) had something to do with the agitation against him; but from what I now know, I have little doubt that the agitation originated with certain ill-conducted prisoners and certain mischief-makers amongst the guards. They fomented hostility amongst Roman Catholic prisoners and Roman Catholic officers; guards and prisoners invented stories against the Warden; they gave a false colouring to acts of his which involved no wrong; they told their falsehoods to newspaper men, and to Roman Catholic clergymen who attended the prison and whose hostility they desired thereby to excite or stimulate. While the agitation was going on, the Warden made no complaint to me, and I know from the Provincial Secretary, the Minister to whose Department the charge of the Central Prison belongs, that no complaint was made to his department, except in the case of the Rev. Father Jeffcot. That complaint was transmitted to the Archbishop for his information. His Grace thereupon appointed another priest in the place of the Rev. Father Jeffcot. You are aware that the clergymen who attend, whether Protestant or Catholic, are not appointed or paid by the Government. The Warden has stated in one of his published letters that the priest who now attends has made himself acceptable to all the officers of the prison, not excluding the Warden himself.

MEANWHILE LETTERS AND EDITORIALS APPEARED

in both the Conservative and Independent journals of the city, setting forth in detail a variety of charges against the Warden, such as gross cruelty to the prisoners, and especially to Roman Catholic prisoners, and "unwarrantable interferences" with the religious duties of Roman Catholics. These charges were by many Roman Catholics, as well as by some Protestants, believed to be true. One of our inspectors investigated them, and satisfied himself that they were not true; and the Government was of the same opinion. But the managers of the Conservative press insisted on the absolute necessity of a Commission, and with more reason than often belongs to what is found in their columns. Thus, in the *Mail* of the 20th March, 1885, the following language was used:—

"The Government cannot afford to ignore this awful arraignment of the Warden and his subordinates, even though they know it to be false; and we