

II.—*The nature of the demands made in Bishop Charbonnel's draft of bill.*

This draft of bill is the first document that Bishop Charbonnel has printed, stating explicitly what he and his colleagues demand. This document speaks for itself; and no private professions or disclaimers as to what is or is not desired or intended, will be of any value in the face of what is here summarily and deliberately demanded as necessary to "satisfy the conscientious convictions of the Catholics of this Province."

The professed object of Bishop Charbonnel's statements and draft of bill, is to secure to the Roman Catholics in Upper Canada what is enjoyed by Protestants in Lower Canada; but the provisions of the draft of bill itself would confer upon Roman Catholics in Upper Canada what is not enjoyed by Protestants in Lower Canada, or in any other civilized country. Under the pretence of assimilating the school law of Upper Canada to that of Lower Canada in regard to separate schools, an attempt is made to place the property of every Protestant in Upper Canada, the power of every municipality, and the school fund itself, in subjection to the promoters of separate schools, without their being subject to any of the restrictions and obligations to which separate schools in Lower Canada and public schools in Upper Canada are now subject. An analysis of the provisions of this draft of bill will more than justify this assertion.

1. The first feature of this draft of bill that I shall notice, is that which relates to the accountability, or rather *non-accountability of separate school trustees, and the conditions of their claims upon the school fund.* The third and fourth sections provide a special superintendent for separate schools, to whom alone they are to make returns, and such returns only as he may require; and on "a report such as (the sixth section prescribes,) required by him," are provincial and municipal school funds to be paid to separate school trustees, and that according to the last official census of the population. Now, every one of those provisions is contrary to the school law of Lower Canada. Here is a special superintendent for separate schools, which does not exist in Lower Canada; here is no provision as to the kind of returns, or when the returns shall be made, or how attested, all of which are prescribed by the school law of both the Canadas, and are not left to any one man, and especially a man chosen to promote a special object. Nothing is prescribed as to the length of time schools shall be kept open in order to share in the school fund, or how conducted, or any inspection. Under such provisions, there might be one separate school in a township or city, that school not kept open more than three days in a year, nor contain more than three pupils, and yet, according to the separate school ratio, the trustees of it receive several hundred pounds of the school fund! It is also here provided that all the money thus to be given to separate schools, shall be paid to the trustees, and that without any personal responsibility on their part as to the expenditure of this money; whereas the school law of Upper Canada does not permit any part of the school fund to be paid into the hands of school trustees at all, but to legally qualified teachers alone, on the written orders of trustees.

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