

# Margaret L. Shepherd's

## INFAMOUS CAREER.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE.

#### To the Citizens of Woodstock, Ontario:

It is not customary for the Catholic clergy to trouble themselves concerning the false accusations which are so frequently made by itinerant lecturers against our faith, and the personal character of the clergy and religious orders of the Catholic Church, because we are aware that the effect of such misrepresentations is but transitory, and the truth will finally triumph over them. It may be, therefore, that I owe an apology to the public for departing from the usual course on the present occasion.

My apology is grounded on the fact that our town of Woodstock and other towns of Ontario, have recently been disturbed by one of those wretched characters, a malicious woman, who has succeeded in duping many of our Protestant fellow-citizens into the belief that Catholics, and especially the Catholic priesthood, are engaged in the evil work of endeavoring to demoralize the country, and also to gain such a political ascendancy as will enable us to persecute Protestants and destroy Protestantism; and on this plea an actual persecution against Catholics is being attempted.

The disturber of the peace of our prosperous town to whom I here make reference, is Mrs. Margaret L. Shepherd, a person notorious in England, Canada, and the United States. She was the founder and organizer of an association known in the States by the designation "The Loyal Women of American Liberty." The objects of this society were similar with those of the "American Protective Association," and the one recently introduced into Canada under the name of "The Protestant Protective Association," in the organization of which Mrs. Shepherd has from the beginning been one of the chief workers. The Protestant Protective Association in Canada, indeed, owes its existence entirely to the efforts made by Mrs. Shepherd to establish it, and she is regarded as its founder and chief promoter.