

No. 6. *The Chief Superintendent to the Honorable Attorney General
McDonald.*

On the Roman Catholic Bishops' comparative table of legislation on Separate Schools, and draft of a new
School Bill for Upper Canada.

[No. 1353, N.]

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 2nd April, 1855.

SIR,

As you are the member of the Government to whom has been confided the care of all measures relating to the educational interests of Upper Canada, I desire to address to you some observations on a paper (a copy of which is hereto appended), which the Right Reverend Dr. de Charbonnel, Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto (after having procured the signatures to it of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Kingston and Bytown), has distributed amongst the members of the Legislature during the present session, and has pressed upon the Government as the ultimatum of his demands on the subject of separate schools. This paper consists of two parts—first, a professed comparison between the school laws of Upper and Lower Canada, and secondly, a draft of bill embodying provisions, as the signers state, nothing short of which will satisfy the conscientious convictions of the Catholics of this Province.

I have said that this paper is signed by three Roman Catholic Bishops. This is the case with the copy before me, and with copies which have been enclosed to some members of the Government and of the Legislature; but I believe the greater number of copies of it are anonymous, and have been enclosed in a pamphlet against our school system, published by Mr. Angus Dallas, wooden ware and toy merchant, Toronto, who, though he is said to be sceptical as to the Christian religion itself, has written against our school system, because it is not religious enough, in hopes of inducing the religious people of Canada to prevent the board of school trustees in the city of Toronto from taxing his property to support free schools—institutions which fill Mr. Dallas' imagination with terror, and tinge the pages of his pamphlet throughout with the hue of sombre melancholy. Bishop Charbonnel is the only ecclesiastic I know of in Canada, and the *Catholic Citizen* the only newspaper I have seen, who have extended to the sceptic writer of this sorrowful pamphlet the support of their patronage in the circulation of his attack upon our public school system. The professed facts of this pamphlet are fictions, so far as they apply to our schools, and so far as they relate to myself personally, and to the normal school. I should not refer to it here, as I have not thought it needful to notice it, were it not circulated by Bishop Charbonnel, and introduced as an authority into the paper which he has circulated amongst the members of the Legislature, and were there not introduced, as the motto of the pamphlet, a garbled extract from an address delivered by the Honorable Chief Justice Robinson, at the opening of the new normal school buildings for Upper Canada, the 24th November, 1852, by which it is attempted to make the Chief Justice