

school in which daily instruction is given in the dogmas, tenets and ordinarily accompanying ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church. They will thus, too, be driven out of the very school-houses, most of the money for building which, has come out of their pockets.

It will be very difficult for any two or three of these contiguous Protestant minorities to unite and form dissentient schools, even if they have the means again to build new school-houses and support separate teachers.

Thus the law puts the "priest" above the expressed will of the people—above the school commissioners—and makes him, in fact, to an alarming extent, *supreme*.

I need hardly say to *you*, that the granting of the same right to the "officiating minister," (Protestant) is a mere chimera; for there is probably not a school-district in the whole of Lower Canada wherein a majority of the Protestant children belong to one branch of the church, and, even if there were—where is the Protestant clergyman who would dare to exercise the "exclusive right" given him by this unwise law? In reality it can alone be exercised by the "cure," (the Roman Catholic priest); and I submit to you that it is a "right" or power which ought not to be granted by law to any man, or set of men.

It need not be a wonder if such things—together with the numerous vexatious prosecutions, (some of which are now pending in several of the Superior Courts), compelling Protestants to pay heavy school-taxes to the Roman Catholic school-authorities—the compelling, of Protestants even, to pay taxes levied to build Roman Catholic churches, and such like—no wonder need be if such and such like things are driving a part of the people, (Catholic and Protestant), of Lower Canada into illomened disquietude, or into what is still worse.\*

Let me assure you, Hon. and Dear Sir, that I submit these things for your immediate consideration in behalf of a large number of liberal Protestants and Catholics, and I beg to say to you that I am engaged in no warfare of Protestant *vs.* Catholic—that I am not actuated by any hostile feelings towards any of our people who differ from me in religion or nationality—that I number among French-Canadian and Irish Catholics many of my best friends and most hearty fellow-labourers—and that I have for years enjoyed, in educational affairs, the cordial co-operation of one

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\* It is averred by a Roman Catholic authority that from his "township" (and there are others of which the like is true) about *one-fourth* of the population has "taken the road of exile" to the United States, chiefly on account of the impoverishing, nay ruinous taxation levied and collected by the Church of Rome as a CIVIL POWER. What settlement in a Township's Parish could long thrive under the fearful burden of a Parish tax of \$40,000, (Forty thousand dollars) to be collected in a brief term of years, by the strong arm of the LAW, and every recusant's property adjudged to be forfeit and sold under the hammer for tax and costs? What is being done here may be repeated in any other township, says the Roman Catholic quoted above.

The Constitutional right of the Roman Catholic Church, as a CIVIL POWER, to invade and take perpetual possession of the EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, must be definitely settled at an early day. Even if the question has to be carried to the FOOT OF THE THRONE.