

there are no legal distinctions affecting any class of your Majesty's subjects; and were the Roman Catholics permitted to follow the impulse of their own minds, and to act individually as their own wishes might prompt them, there would be no cause for apprehending that they would differ from their neighbours in matters of a civil nature. But it unfortunately happens that their Clergy have acquired a thoroughly despotic and absolute control over a very large proportion of the lower orders of their creed, by which means they are enabled to concentrate and direct the efforts of the body against each member individually to an extent that would scarcely be credited by any who do not witness their conduct, and in a way that is altogether destructive of the civil and religious liberties of the people at large.

To this cause, we submit, may be directly traced the evils of which we now complain; and as all authority rests in a great measure upon the power which those who exercise it possess of enforcing their mandates, we trust our observations will not be regarded as out of place if we state to your Majesty some of the means used by the Roman Catholic Priests, for coercing those who evince any disinclination to comply with their wishes.

In the first place they denounce them from the altar, as persons hostile to their Priests, and as opposed to the authority of their Church, and then warn their congregations not to deal or hold any intercourse with them, designating them commonly as "Mad Dogs"—a term by which it is understood that the individuals to whom it is applied, have not adopted the political views of