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tively, and pay the sums thus awarded—that the trustees of separate schools should be relieved from making any returns of the names of the supporters or pupils of their schools; but in order to be exempted from all public school taxes, they should do as they do in Lower Canada, make a declaration in writing to their municipal council, before the 1st day of February each year, that they are supporters of separate schools. Mr. Hincks' administration ceased to exist a day or two after my draft of bill was put into his hands; and it was subsequently handed over to you. I believe the clause I submitted was at first viewed favorably by the lay members of the Roman Catholic church, who examined them, and who were probably not aware of Bishop Charbonnel's real objects. I think he calculated upon my refusing to accede to the proposition of Mr. Hincks, and that he would thereby obtain an advantage. But whether or not, I am glad that he has refused to accept that which I had assented to and proposed. The result is, that Bishop Charbonnel has been compelled to what the Earl of Elgin complained a year ago that he could not get him to do—that is, to state explicitly what he wanted in regard to separate schools. All parties will now know Bishop Charbonnel's terms and conditions of peace and harmony in Upper Canada. It now remains to be seen whether the people will accept them or not.

I have thus stated the course I have pursued in regard to separate schools from the beginning to the present time, as also the course pursued by Bishop Charbonnel. It will have been seen that what he professed he was well satisfied with at one time, he complained of at another; and that he has in every new concession the starting point of a fresh agitation for further concessions. It may also now be submitted, whether I have not rather erred on the side of concession than otherwise. I have done all in my power, and incurred much opposition and obloquy to gratify the wishes of Bishop Charbonnel in everything that did not involve the subversion of a system of public instruction, and the constitutional and sacred rights of individuals and municipalities.

I have been given to understand that one reason of Bishop Charbonnel's demand for a special superintendent of separate schools, that I expressed myself unfavorably as to their success in my Annual School Report for 1852; and my right to do so in such a document has been called in question. On this point I observe, *first*, that the school act expressly requires me to include in my annual report of the state of the schools, "such statements and suggestions for improving the common schools and the common school laws, and promoting education generally, as I shall deem useful and expedient." Strictly of this character are my observations in my report for 1852, in which I justified the government and legislature in maintaining the separate school provisions of the law, as an actual experiment was the only means of satisfying the parties claiming separate schools as to their expediency and advantage, or otherwise, and which I believed would result in a conviction that the public schools were more economical and advantageous to all parties concerned. I remark, *secondly*, that the Superintendent of Education in Lower Canada has, from year to year, not only discussed actual and proposed provisions of the school law, but the conduct of various parties in regard to the law and the school, and especially a class whom he terms "*Eleignoirs*," on whose proceedings he animadverts with great severity—