

them by a "patented" divine in robes. The "why" and the "wherefore" began to be heard, and they threatened Roman Catholicism as the Guy Fawkes powder plot did the Parliament of England. About 1857 the Roman Catholic authorities realizing their position, decided upon the destruction of this dangerous focus, and began the attack under cover, and by raising side issues. The first gun fired at it was in the shape of a motion to exclude all religious papers, whether Roman Catholic or Protestant. The object of this motion was to exclude the *Witness* and *Le Semeur Canadien* for there was not then any Roman Catholic religious paper properly speaking, if we except the *True Witness*, which was at that date of no more account than it is at the present. A fierce struggle ensued, discussion ran high, an amendment was made, and out of a meeting of 300 was thrown out early in the morning by a small majority. A second meeting was held, and an amendment was again put, and and out of 300 votes there was a tie, when the casting vote was given in favor of the amendment. The enemies of free thought acknowledged their defeat; the ballot was then adopted when the advocates of education carried everything before them, and the *Institut* was triumphant. Jesuitical merchants were unable to induce their clerks to vote with them; and open warfare for the nonce was at an end. Up to this time the instigator of the oppressive opposition was unknown, but two days after the decisive vote referred to, bishop Bourget published a long and elaborate pastoral letter commanding every one to withdraw from the *Institut*, under pain said to have been decreed by the Council of Trent—Upwards of 150 members in conformity with this order, executed a solemn act of secession in writing.—This was in 1858.

Then indeed did the promoters of the scheme of infallibility, spread *fanaticism* amongst Roman Catholics, and the *Institut Canadien* was soon visited by this foul pestilence, for whenever a member found himself deprived of protection or of that strength of mind which animated the arch-angel, he would encounter the sweet face of a priest with the gratifying assurance that he could neither partake of the communion, nor be married by his church until he had withdrawn from *l'Institut Canadien*.

As long as a member was known to act uncompromisingly