

youth of our Church as it is affected by our Common School law, I have hitherto argued the question on what are, perhaps, the only proper grounds—those of moral necessity and sound Christian principle. To-day, however, I propose to prove our right to separate schools on the score of political consistency and democratic rights—pleas which, I regret to think, may be more powerful with some of our rulers than those higher and holier principles which I have before adduced.

And first, as evidence of the *political and social* in expediency of the ultra-democratic School system at present existing in Canada, and indeed on this continent generally, let me invite attention to the following very striking extract from the *liberal*, Free-Church *North British Review* for February last. It is taken from the article on "The Prospects of France and the dangers of England."—"Those who have watched the interior workings of society in France, long and close at hand, are inclined to attribute much of *that uselessness and discontent which is one of its most striking features, and which is the despair both of the friends of order and the friends of freedom*, TO THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION! This is considered to embody two characteristic errors, both of which are dangerous and both of which operate in the same direction—it is too literary and too little industrial and utilitarian, and it is too uniform for all classes. The great proportion of those who attend it acquire, it is said, a smattering of literature, just sufficient to give them a distaste for the humble and useful occupations of their parents, a desire for intellectual excitement of a miscellaneous and often of a low description, and a conceit of their own fitness for careers and professions which demand a really liberal and comprehensive education. *Then members of various grades and classes in the social scale are instructed together, in the same schools, in the same modes, and on the same subjects, to a degree of which we have no example here.* If the peasant, the grocer, or the tailor can scrape together a little money, his son receives his training in the same seminary as the son of the proprietor whose land