

that, because, forsooth, some unknown person wrote a sentence in a Kingston paper exhorting the Catholic people of Ontario to defend themselves against the ferocious bigots of the "Equal Rights Association," by a judicious choice of the suffrage in withholding their support from any political party that will not guarantee them security in their natural and Christian and constitutional liberties, you dash off with the triumphant interruption, "Is there not great danger to the State in this solid compact of the minority?" You assume as a fact that which the unknown writer exhorts to, and by exhorting, confesses not to have existence. You pronounce it "a danger to modern civilization," and "one of the greatest evils we have to contend with in parliamentary government," and against which both parties should cry: "Unite, unite against a common enemy, for there is danger in the community." This is truly shocking; it is an outrage to Him whose advent to earth you believe to have been heralded by the angelic song, "Peace on earth, good-will to men."

Did the Hon Mr. Mercier or the leader of the Opposition in the Quebec Legislature attempt by any disgraceful method of this kind to catch the votes of the unthinking populace, and influence religious passion against the Protestant minority of Lower Canada, your innate sense of justice and fair play would then, I trow, rise up in revolt against such petty politicians' barbarity, and possibly you might be tempted to charge his crime against his church as a relic of Medievalism and a specimen of the unilluminated morality of that historical period, which the more ignorant of your agnostic friends are wont to facetiously style the "Dark Ages." David, the royal sinner, felt no remorse of conscience over the murder of the brave and faithful officer whose bed he had defiled, till the prophet of God appealed to the unextinguished spark of natural justice in his breast by a parable of infinitely less greivous injury done to one of his peasant subjects. Let Lower Canada be your parable.

Ah! sir, it was unworthy of you, who expect to hold some day or another the office of premier in the ministry of this province, or, this failing you, to mount the bench of justice for the conscientious settlement of claims and disputes between man and man, that you should foment discord and hate amongst her Majesty's subjects, and bid the majority unite in solid compact for the oppression of the minority, whom you have sought to brand with the mark of Cain. Herein you become guilty of all that wickedness imputed by yourself to the unknown author of the Kingston sentence, and you are involved in all your terrible anathemas

pronounced against him. He is unknown, his sentence will pass into speedy oblivion, despite the factitious importance you have striven to attach to it. Your name and your cruel utterance against your Catholic fellow-citizens, than whom there are no better in the land, will be linked together in the mind of this generation, and may their recurrence to memory prompt the prayer, "May God forgive William Meredith."

I remain, dear sir,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) JAMES VINCENT O'LEARY,

Archbishop (elect) of Kingston.

St. Michael's Palace, Toronto, December, 22nd, 1889.

#### Mr. Meredith Makes a Vigorous Response.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst. (but only through the public newspapers), and were one content with a superficial reading of it, it would be difficult in the mass of exhortation, instruction and fatherly admonition which it contains, and which reaches its climax when you stay for a moment the torrent of your eloquent invective, to drop a sympathetic tear at the thought of the injury I have done to my cause, to recognize the handiwork of the fiery ecclesiastic, who at the last provincial general election swept Eastern Ontario with his denunciations of the party I had the honor to lead, and exhorting, nay, commanding, those of his episcopal flock to cast their ballots against it.

But it has been impossible for you to conceal entirely your true sentiments or to hide the motive or object of your attack. Else why do you speak of my agnostic friends? Or why do you talk of the "ferocious bigots" of the Equal Rights Association, or falsely charge me with desiring to oppress the Roman Catholic minority, or with seeking by disgraceful methods to catch the votes of the unthinking populace and influence religious passion against the Roman Catholic minority of Ontario, for, mark as you may, that is the charge which you insinuate, though you do not appear openly to make? I can appeal to a lifetime in this community for the answer to the charge of intolerance and bigotry which you insinuate against me, and to the utterances of nearly twenty years of public life as my defence against your calumnious charges. Tried by the same test, can you ask a verdict of acquittal on a like charge from your fellow-citizens? I trow not. They do not—they cannot—forget the cruel, the wanton attack which you publicly made upon the defenceless girls and young women of Ontario, and that, too, that you might make a point against the public school system of this province; nor can they forget the language which you thought fit to use to-