

the constitution for special guarantees. How provident, what foresight, what precaution against the whims or prejudices of the majority. May we ask why some such concessions were not secured for the Catholic minority of Ontario? The answer is evident. Because they were friendless in a Conservative Government. I will venture to say that if any one had raised the issue, they would cry *shame, bigot*; why distrust the honour of the Protestant majority? But there is no shame when a Protestant doubts the honour of a Catholic majority.

OTTAWA CITY.

I now come to an explanation of the anomalous position of the City of Ottawa, where the minority rule the majority, ay, with a rod of iron, too, as demonstrated in Table I.—a thing unprecedented from Cape Horn to Behring's Straits. In 1854 the Municipal Council of the Town of Bytown petitioned the Legislature to be incorporated as a city, to be called the "City of Ottawa." As is usual in such circumstances, they prepared their own *Bill*, sub-dividing the proposed city into five wards, and describing their respective boundaries. The Government during the progress of the *Bill*, contrary to all precedent, changed the boundaries of the wards at the instance of their supporters, in such a manner that the Protestant minority could control a majority of the new wards. By this arrangement the minority were assigned three wards, while the majority had only two; and so dexterously had it been managed that the majority has ever since been unable to regain its lost rights. Not content with robbing us they must insult us also. They denominated the Protestant wards St. George, Victoria and Wellington, and the Catholic ones, *By* and *Ottawa*. This accounts for the proportion of three Protestants to two Catholics in the City Council, which has since been maintained.

The first act of the new Council was to dismiss every Catholic employee, even to the messenger; and have still adhered to the same intolerant spirit as exhibited in Table I. The same *animus* characterized them in school management, so that the majority, contrary to the spirit, if not the letter of the law, had to resort to separate schools with all their disadvantages. All the actors in these disreputable transactions were Conservatives of the right stripe. In the seventeen years which have since elapsed I can only recall one Protestant of the Reform party holding a seat in the Council. I am reasonably hopeful that the Liberal party will hasten to do us justice, and carry out to its legitimate conclusion the great principle of "representation by population." Will the Catholics of Ontario strengthen our hands by a generous, united support at the polls?