

separate school, sending children to, or supporting such school by subscribing thereto annually an amount equal to the sum which such person would be liable to pay if such Separate School did not exist, or any assessment to obtain the annual Common School Grant for each such city, town, incorporated village or township, shall be exempted from the payment of ALL rates imposed for the support of the Common Public Schools of each such city, town, incorporated village or school section, and of ALL rates imposed for the purpose of obtaining the Legislative Common School Grant, for such city, town, incorporated village or township."

"We should consider these terms sufficiently explicit and intelligible. There is no ambiguity, no mystery, but everything expressed in words so plain and concise as to render misapplication impossible. Those persons who contribute to the maintenance of Separate Schools, to the amount of their liability to the Common School Tax, shall be totally exonerated from ALL taxes for Common School purposes. Those who do not contribute to the support of Separate Schools shall be compelled to pay their full proportion of the Common School rates."

Such was the light in which this enactment was viewed by those who demanded it. But instead of its being carried fairly into effect by the Roman Catholic separate school trustees in Toronto, their secretary (Hon. John Elmsley,) resisted making the returns which the act required, and then complained of injustice and wrong at the hands of the Municipal Council of the City of Toronto. An appeal was made to me; and the questions raised were discussed in correspondence which took place between Mr. Elmsley and myself, in the autumn of 1853. Soon, a new agitation was commenced against these, shortly-before lauded provisions of the supplementary school act. It was complained that the local municipalities obstructed its operations, and that, requiring the payment of these school rates to separate schools as a condition of having them, was a hardship, and it was demanded that the Chief Superintendent (who was responsible, and could be complained of to the government,) should divide the school grant between the public and separate schools, and should pay it directly to them. Some time last summer, the late Inspector General (Hon. F. Hincks,) communicated with me on this subject, and suggested whether I could not undertake to distribute and pay the school grant to separate schools, as this would be satisfactory to the complaining parties. I expressed my conviction that this would not satisfy Bishop Charbonnel—that I was satisfied he had ulterior objects in view—that his object was to get a measure by which the Catholic population, as a body, would be separated from the public schools, and the municipalities made tax-gatherers for the separate schools. But in deference to Mr. Hincks' wishes, and as he had done so much to aid me in my work, and to promote the public school system, and seemed to think it would be satisfactory, I consented to undertake the task proposed, although I had expressed strong objection to it in my printed report for 1852. Accordingly, in a draft of bill which I transmitted to Mr. Hincks, with explanatory remarks, the 6th September, 1854,* I prepared these clauses, providing that the separate schools and public schools in municipalities where they both exist, should report semi-annually to the Chief Superintendent—that he should determine the sums payable to them respec-

* See No. 3 of this correspondence.