

whose authority as an exponent of the Constitution very few will question. (Cheers.)

It is said, next, that we provide by-laws for the representation of Roman Catholics on High School Boards, but make no provision for the representation of Methodists, Baptists or any other denomination. Now I want you to notice the disingenuous character of this objection. If we had denominational schools in Ontario as they have in England, the objection would be well taken. True, we have Protestant schools, whose claim might be similarly recognized, but they are in effect fully represented on all our High School Boards already. For some reason or other, which I have never yet seen fully explained, Municipal and County Councils

ALMOST ENTIRELY IGNORED ROMAN CATHOLICS

in their appointments to High School Boards. The clergy of all other denominations were appointed over and over again; Protestant laymen of all denominations held seats on these Boards. Taxes were levied and collected from all alike. Out of 624 High School Trustees holding office in 1885, I have not been able to ascertain that even twenty of them were Catholics. Now, it was impossible that this apparent discrimination should not be felt, and that very keenly, by the Catholic supporters of High Schools. I do not charge my fellow-Protestants with bigotry in acting thus, but it was an oversight which the usual prudence of Municipal Councils failed to remedy. What was to be done? Under such treatment it was obvious that Catholics could not take the interest in higher education which it was desirable they should take. To be ostracised in the management of these schools was regarded by them as a notice that their children were not wanted there, and if the Government came to their rescue it did so only to repair the injustice from which they suffered. Sir, I do not regret this concession, if concession our opponents choose to call it. (Hear, hear.) I know it has stimulated the Separate Schools of the country to greater activity. I know it has

REMOVED A GRIEVANCE

which seriously impeded the cause of higher education. If you applauded those who fought for liberty on the ground that taxation without representation was unjust, you cannot condemn us for applying a similar principle at home and to your own fellow-subjects. (Cheers.) It will not do to say that a similar rule should be applied to Methodists and Presbyterians. When these denominations have schools of their own, it will be time enough to raise