

costly secular buildings arise on every side, to erect also worthy structures for the worship of the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

#### THE JESUIT QUESTION.

If the overwhelming majority at Ottawa who voted down Col. O'Brien's motion for the disallowance of the Jesuits' Estates Bill think that their action settles the question, we think that they are very much mistaken. There are some questions that will not down till they are settled on the basis of eternal truth and righteousness; and this is one of them. The Protestant conscience of the country is deeply stirred; never within our recollection so deeply stirred on any moral question. This is not a mere fanatical, "No Popery" cry. It is a deep and intense conviction of duty to God and to the country that animates the men who are taking the lead in this matter—men who, like Principal Cavan, have more the character of the scholarly recluse than of the public agitator. It is a crisis of no ordinary importance which causes the *General Superintendents of the Methodist Church* and the *Presidents of nine Annual Conferences* to append their names to the following document—a document which we are sure will have due weight with the thoughtful laymen of the country:

"We, the *General Superintendents of the Methodist Church of this Dominion*, and the *Presidents of the Annual Conferences assembled*, without assuming to speak for any other men's consciences or intelligence than our own, and with only the desire to obtain righteous ends by righteous means, deem it our bounden duty to protest against the aggressions of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, as we believe, to the serious prejudice of our civil and religious liberty, more especially in the recent Act for the incorporation and endowment of the Jesuits, a society which has been suppressed in Great Britain, and again and again disqualified by Imperial Statutes to hold property within the British realm, and has also been expelled from all Christian and civilized lands because of its influence in the

subversion of government and the corruption of morals, and notably from the Republic of France as lately as 1879-80; and which society, for similar and other causes, was abolished in all the world by the Pope himself.

"We further protest against the *recognition of the authority of the Pope* in any civil affairs of a British Province, as we believe to be the case in this Act respecting the Jesuit estates, and further, against the appropriation of public funds to ecclesiastical and secular uses as a discrimination betwixt religious bodies, and subversive of the principle of separation of Church and State, as recognized in the British North America Act; and further, we desire to declare that our aid and influence shall be given to all efforts to test the constitutionality of these Acts before the proper tribunal; and we cannot but express our deep regret that the House of Commons, in its recent vote upon the subject, should have manifested so little regard to petitions asking for disallowance, and to the strong expressions of feeling from influential bodies in various parts of the Dominion.

"In putting forth thus moderately our convictions on these important matters we disclaim any and every intention to interfere with the full rights of our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens in civil and religious matters. We appeal to the history of Methodism as to her advocacy and guardianship of equal privileges to all. We desire earnestly the peace and prosperity of our commonwealth, and must cast upon aggressors the responsibility for disasters which we gravely apprehend. Ever confident that Protestantism in the fear of God will stand for the liberty of the subject, the honour of the Crown and the full freedom of worship according to the dictates of conscience, under the sense of personal responsibility and the exercise of individual right."

#### \* THE SCOTT ACT REPEALS.

We confess to very great regret at the recent repeals of the Scott Act in so many counties and towns of Ontario. Imperfect as that Act was, and imperfectly as it was carried out, it, nevertheless, had the effect of considerably restricting the sale and use of intoxicating drink. Even the liquor dealers themselves cannot