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E. Equal Rights Association for the Province
of Ontario.

EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

ADDRESS

BY

THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

TO THE

PEOPLE OF ONTARIO,

DEALING MAINLY WITH

SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

PUBLISHED BY

THE EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION,

9½ ADELAIDE STREET EAST,
TORONTO.

Copies of this letter and other literature of the Association may be obtained on application to W. BANKS, Secretary, at the above address.

The principles of the Equal Rights Association are set forth in the platform adopted by the convention which met in Toronto in June last, and are now before the people of Ontario: to all of these the association steadfastly adheres. Principles which recognize the proper distinction between the civil and the ecclesiastical domains are by no means new to the people of this country. They were formally accepted by the Legislature of Canada many years before Confederation, and we had a right to expect that the policy of the Dominion and of its constituent Provinces would not have sanctioned or permitted any flagrant violation of them, such as we find in the Act which bestows public funds upon the Jesuits and other religious agencies of the Church of Rome in Quebec. The leading position of our Association is that civil authority and ecclesiastical authority should not be confounded, that Church and State should, each in its own sphere, accomplish its own work with its own resources, and that the Church should not give law to the State any more than the State should trench upon the freedom of the Church. Were this rule in all its legitimate applications invariably observed, any difficulties which might arise in our country between French and English, between Roman Catholic