

REV. DR. CAVEN'S PUBLIC LETTER OF APRIL  
29th, 1890.

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In view of the near approach of the elections for the Legislature of Ontario I desire to say a word respecting the relation of the Equal Rights Association to party.

The Association is not itself a party in the ordinary sense. It has nothing to say regarding the questions which divide Conservatives and Reformers as such. Both these parties are represented—in what relative proportions I cannot venture to say—in the membership of the Association, and the very existence of the Association depends upon the scrupulous impartiality with which all matters that affect or involve party shall be treated.

Equal Rights men bind themselves to maintain the principles of their alliance as set forth in the platform of the Association; otherwise they are as free as ever to give their support where they choose. The Association represents an important principle—the distinction between Church and State; and it would prevent all undue ecclesiastical interference in civil affairs. It is organised to defend and to propagate this principle.

The Provincial Association cannot forbid those who in any constituency favor its views from bringing forward candidates who are pledged to support those views. Localities must have the right to do so should they deem such action prudent. But none who value the principles of Equal Rights will lend themselves to any sinister method, or permit the Association to become an instrument in the hands of designing men for the advancement of party. Should anything of this kind be attempted in any place every true member of the Association will regard it as base and immoral, and as fitted to do irreparable damage to a most necessary movement. To all men of any party, who have shown no interest in our organization till they imagined that it might be used for per-

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