

found to establish that Christianity in general, and not simply the tenets of particular sects, is a part of the common law of England, and that the cardinal doctrines of Christianity have been respected and guarded by the legislature and common law of the country," and he instances as legislative recognitions of Christianity the statutes for the proper observance of the Lord's Day (29 Car. II. c. 7), and the statute for the suppression of blasphemy (9 & 10 Wm. III. c. 32), both of which became part of the law of Ontario by virtue of the Constitutional Act, 49 Geo. III. c. 1 (U.C.).

When Christianity first appeared in the world it had no adventitious support from the temporal governments of the world. It was a purely voluntary society seeking to spread itself in the same way as any voluntary religious society to-day seeks to spread itself. No one could be compelled to join the society, and the only persuasions permitted were those addressed to the reason and the conscience. The reign of Constantine marks the era of the change of attitude of the State to the Christian religion. Thenceforward the Christian church was taken under the patronage of the temporal rulers of Europe, and though it acquired wealth and power, it was often at the expense of the sacrifice of spirituality.

In the heyday of the Church prosperity and patronage by the State, it is quite certain that methods were adopted by both Church and State for overcoming opposition to the tenets of the Christian faith of a far different kind from those employed by the primitive fathers, and the adoption of such methods, though attended with temporary success, has left a wound on the Church's reputation: because it is not unnaturally assumed by some that those who resorted to such methods were carrying out the principles of the Church whose ministers they were, though in truth and fact they were altogether misapprehending the spirit and true meaning of the religion they professed.

Who can now read of all the burnings and tortures of past ages done in the sacred name of the Christian religion without feeling how very far removed all such proceedings are from that