

are not in point of ability, character, or standing in society, at all qualified for the office in which they find themselves placed; consequently by no means such as the electors themselves, if left to the uncontrolled exercise of their franchise, would have chosen.—Their only qualification, in fact, being a blind subserviency to the dictates and wishes of the Roman Catholic priesthood.

We feel confident in affirming that in the districts of St. John and Conception Bay, which return seven out of the fifteen members of the Assembly, and where the illegal influence of which we complain is so powerful, a large majority of the electors were, and are, opposed to the candidates who have been returned by the means beforementioned, and the result of the elections would, we doubt not, have been very different could the electors, in attending the hustings, have been assured of protection from violence and outrage, and secured from the subsequent persecution and punishment with which they were solemnly threatened, and which they well knew would have been so unmercifully inflicted upon them.

Nor is it the least among the evils resulting from this baneful system, that in other districts where the Roman Catholic clergy possess little or no direct influence, such a hopelessness of any thing like a fair representation throughout has been engendered, and such a conviction of the uselessness of sending independent members to meet a majority thus produced, that in the last election instances occurred in which persons were returned as members without opposition, whose pretensions were really ludicrous, and who, under any other circumstances, would have received no countenance whatever.