

overseeing, on the Lancasterian plan, perhaps not above 50 boys. But though it is left to the Presbytery to sustain or reject the teachers presented to them by the Visitors or committee of supply, and though nearly the whole of the Scotch population are Presbyterians, and though the Kirk is and has been for centuries, by law, the established Church, of Scotland; yet the parochial Schools are not, as you say, "placed under the *immediate superintendance of the clergy*," if the Edinburgh Reviewers, who, I dare say know as much about their own church and schools as an *Episcopal* clergyman does—may be credited; for say they—"The Presbyterian religion was established before the Act passed for putting the blessed system of parish schools in activity. Nor do the *Presbyterian clergy interfere, except most remotely, with the schools even now.*" (E. R. for Aug. 1825, p. 454.)—Such sir, is the system of education to which Scotland owes her high reputation for intellectual improvement, and such is the system of education we would advocate in Canada—a system established by Acts of our Provincial Legislature—a system on an economical plan—a system conformable to the wishes of the great mass of the population—a system promoted by the *united* efforts of the laity and clergy (of every denomination, no matter, the *principle* is the same)—a system, in immediately superintending the schools of which the different bodies of clergy will "not interfere, except most remotely"—a system which will afford a school to every neighbourhood or parish, and bring the blessings of education to every family throughout the Province—a system which is like to immortalize the United States (1)—a system the principles of which *you* recognize in referring to the Edinburgh University—a system, which, if adopted, will at no distant day, make Canada an ornament to the British Empire, and fill every habitation with joy and gladness. But, sir, in order to introduce this blessed system, the present Charter of your University must be cancelled, which has deception, misrepresentation and calumny for its foundation—apparent extravagance for its introduction—an aspiring and ambitious clergy for its sole governors and conductors, to the entire exclusion of all others of every description—which is opposed to the decisions of our Provincial Parliament, and to the general wish-

es of the people—which is unsuitable to their condition, at variance with their common interests, and dangerous to their political, civil, and religious liberties.

Rev. Sir, I have now done. The foregoing investigations have been as painful to me, as they can possibly be unpleasant to you.—"But though I love Cæsar, I love Rome more." Justice to myself, to the church of which I am a member, and to the Country that gave me birth, has imposed upon me the arduous and disagreeable task, which I have thus endeavoured, to the best of my feeble ability and unfavourable circumstances, faithfully to discharge. In doing this, I can confidently say, that I have not been, to my knowledge, influenced by any personal feeling, with any private animosity. The cause I consider a public one, and, as you very justly observe, "never ought to interfere with the charities of social life."

While as an *Ecclesiastical Establishment*, I oppose your church, as a Church, or "congregation of believers," (to use the words of your 19th article) I pray God to give it prosperity. While as a public man, pursuing your present measures, I feel myself in duty bound decidedly to differ from you; as a private individual, I entreat the smiles of Heaven upon yourself and family. With some of the clergymen and many exemplary and highly respectable members of your church, I have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, and am happy to call them my friends; and it is my sincere prayer to Almighty God, that all our errors and inproprieties may be corrected and forgiven, and that it may be your and my portion, and that of all with whom we may be respectively blended in church fellowship, to be enabled to say at our approaching departure—"I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith, and henceforth there is a crown of life laid up for me, which the Lord the Righteous Judge shall give me in that day."

I have the honour to be,

Rev. Sir, Your Humble Servant,
EGERTON RYERSON.

Cobourg, 14th June, 1828.

(1) "Too much praise (says the Edinburgh Review, for July, 1824, p. 432), cannot be given to the Americans for their great attention to the subject of education. They quite put into the back ground, every thing which has been done in the Old World for the improvement of the lower orders, and confer deservedly upon themselves, the character of a wise, reflecting, and virtuous people."