

inhabitant are identical. The government which singles out a class and gives them privileges which it refuses to all others is provoking unrest, possibly agitation that may end in revolt. The path of peace lies in each citizen being equal in the eye of the law. From the point of view of the careless minded, it may seem a trifling matter that the demand of the priests for separate schools for their people should be granted, but it means that Catholics are placed on a different plane from their fellow-citizens, and what is worse, means that the government takes upon itself the prerogative of judging between religions. In considering whether the government is justified in so acting, there is no need of resorting to theology, for the question is not one of doctrine but of civil rights. Is the government justified in conferring on a section of the people privileges different from those it denies to the other sections? If it is not justified, then separate school laws are wrong, because they are a violation of that equality of civil rights which is the basis of free government. A despotic government picks and chooses among the people it rules, giving privileges to one which it denies to another, but a government such as ours which in theory is democratic, and supposed to make no difference between man and man, cannot do so without danger to the peace. The existence of separate schools, maintained by rates which the government gives authority to collect, and by grants from the public treasury, is so gross a violation of the compact on which Canada's government rests, that the injustice of them will rankle in the minds of the people at large until they are abolished. In George Brown's day that could easily have been done. It is more difficult now because, like