

a measure of public approval as a Government could look for. It has been my good fortune, with the assistance of able colleagues and Liberal supporters, so to conduct the Government and guide the Legislation of this Province during the last fourteen years as to have had during this period the entire confidence of the Liberal party, and to a large extent the approval of intelligent Conservatives also; and, as a consequence, it is notorious that, in regard to the general election which is now approaching, the Opposition are hopeless of success from ordinary methods. But in a community so largely Protestant as ours, the cry of "Protestantism in danger," if the people can be got to believe it, may overpower all other issues. Accordingly, in the extremity of the Conservative opposition, and for the sole purpose of getting votes, the leading Conservative organ here began some months ago to cry "No Popery;" the Conservative press generally took up the cry; and all these journals have ever since persistently endeavoured to create the belief, or the fear, that new and objectionable legislation in the interest of the Roman Catholic portion of the people is contemplated, and that new and peculiar privileges or advantages are intended to be given to them. But all this I am in a position to positively and emphatically deny. Nothing of the kind has ever been under our consideration; or been from any quarter proposed or suggested for our consideration; and I have not the slightest reason for supposing that anything of the kind has been thought of by any of my colleagues, or (I ought in justice to add) by any Roman Catholic authority. I do not doubt that,

AS A LIBERAL AND A PROTESTANT,

you will be glad of this statement of mine, and that any other Protestant Liberals, who from any cause have been led to believe or apprehend that the case was otherwise, will feel glad to have their confidence strengthened. They know that I have never deceived them hitherto. They and you will justly believe that I do not deceive now.

You refer to our civil and religious liberties as being in danger, or possible danger. I take as deep an interest in the liberties, civil and religious, of my native Province as any man can. Office is no advantage to me, involving as it does pecuniary loss, unceasing and exhausting labour, continual misrepresentation and abuse by political opponents, and occasionally, as in the present case, misunderstandings on the part of friends. If office did not afford the opportunity of doing good service to my Province, or if power could only be maintained by submitting to undue and pernicious influence of any kind, I could not endure my position for a day. One of the advantages of that position is, that it enables me to