

incomparably better treated than the Catholics;—that the latter have received for their separate school, attended on an average by 46 pupils, only £4 10s., Government money; and are offered as little out of about £300 taxes raised for the payment of teachers,—to which the Catholics have much contributed, as well as to the high sum levied for the building of a new school-house;—that in another mixed school the anti-Catholic history of England by Goldsmith is perused as a text book.

Again, Rev. dear Doctor, where is the equity of such a management? Where that liberal spirit professed in pamphlets, public speeches, reports, &c.? And am I not right to call our most deplorable system of education a regular disguised persecution? (b) And still I have at hand facts of a worse character.

I remain, Rev. and dear Doctor, respectfully and friendly yours,  
(Signed) + ARM'DUS FR. MY.  
Bp. of Toronto.

Rev. Dr. E. Ryerson,  
Chief Superintendent of Education.

### 3. Dr. Ryerson to Bishop Charbonnel.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

TORONTO, 13th March, 1852.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, and of the 7th instant, respecting a difference between the trustees of a separate school, and the Board of Trustees of the public schools in the town of Chatham. On the 21st ultimo, I received through the Honorable S. B. Harrison, a communication from the trustees of the separate school in the town of Chatham on the same subject.

Parental and religious rights are protected in the School System.

In respect to the complaint that Goldsmith's England is read as a text book in one of the mixed schools of Chatham, there can be no reasonable ground for it, since the 14th section of the school Act expressly provides that "no pupil in any Common school shall be required to read or to study in or from any religious book or join in any exercise of devotion or religion which shall be objected to by his or her parents or guardians." Therefore every Catholic and Protestant child is effectually protected against the use of any book, or joining in any exercise, to which his or her parents or guardians religiously object; and I presume the parties who made the complaint which you state, will not complain as a grievance that they cannot dictate as to what text books shall be used in a mixed school by the children of other parents, as long as their own children are under their own protection in this respect.

The works complained of are not sanctioned.

Though I had not heard before of the objections which you mention, to Goldsmith's very defective compendium of the History of England, the book is not sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction; nor has any

(b) That is, of course, because the Bishop's "new ideas" were not sufficiently provided for. In 1851 he supported it, when Dr. Ryerson told Lord Elgin that the system was "free from the slightest tinge of sectarianism in its management."

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