

DEFIES HIM!

Meredith Will Go Ahead in Spite of All the Power of Rome.

HE REPLIES TO DR. CLEARY

And Scores that Prelate For Calling Him a Hungry Adventurer.

THE PEOPLE MADE THE CONSTITUTION

And the People Can Unmake It and Abolish Separate Schools, says the Opposition Leader.



W. R. MEREDITH.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to say anything to-night that will I hope give offence to anybody. I am not here for that purpose; I am not here to meet abuse by abuse; I am not here to meet vulgarity by vulgarity. (Loud cheers.) I am here to appeal to the judgment of my fellow-citizens, and to stand or fall by their verdict. (Renewed cheers.) This gentleman to whom I am now referring—"Oh, oh!"—breaks out in the period of every general election. (Laughter.) He broke out in 1886; he broke out in 1890, and he has broken out in 1894. (Laughter.) And he has always broken out in the same spot. (Laughter.) Well, now, he is terribly exercised about bigotry; he is terribly exercised about intolerance, and he appeals to me I hope as a man with a good name will ever appear in vain—to the fair play of the Protestant majority of the Province of Ontario. (Cheers.)

But let us see, sir, what claims this gentleman has to call men names, to appeal to sectarian cries, and to charge a great party with intolerance and bigotry. This is the same gentleman who, six years ago, insulted the poor defenceless women of the schools of Napawan. (Loud cheers.) This is the same gentleman who in 1890 insulted the whole Protestant clergy of this Dominion. Let me give you his language. Bear in mind these things are not said as politicians say, upon the stump, but they are said from what was undoubtedly, in the sense of that religion, the house of God. This is what he said, speaking now about the last campaign:

An Army of Demons. "The diabolical spirit of hatred of religious education has found its way unfortunately into the Province of Ontario. Satan has raised his standard here, and has set forth from the gates of hell—(cries of 'Oh, oh!')—his army of demons to propagate his wicked maxims throughout the cities and towns of this Province. (Laughter.) These are the poisonous pesters that would lead the forces of infidels, atheists and bigots against Christian schools. Poor, little, wretched ministers! Kneel, pious, ungodly, evangelical, sanctimonious ministers!" (Loud laughter.)

There is the gentleman who appeals for tolerance to the Protestant people of Ontario. (Cheers.) Though he wore the scarlet and purple, I tell him the men to whom he thus refers are entitled to as much respect, and deserve to receive the respect of the people of this country. (Cheers.) Sir, I have always been from the church in indignation against me and the party which I have had a name to read.

A Hungry Adventurer. He says he does it because of the very bad language I have used with regard to the Roman Catholics, and their schools in the Legislature, and throughout the campaign, and he says that I am "a hungry adventurer"—(laughter)—seeking by reason of false cries to disturb the people, and ride into power. Now, I want to meet this gentleman upon his own ground. I tell him that he slanders me in any charges which he makes. (Loud cheers.) What I have said is upon record, and I demand, in the name of justice, in the name of fair play, that he shall put his hand upon any utterance, or upon a line of mine which justifies this foul slander against me. (Cheers.) I cannot do it; he knows he cannot do it, and yet he issues this charge from the sacred altar of his church against me in order that I may be destroyed in the election. (Cheers.)

Meredith No Bigot. Sir, is it roasting intolerance, or bigotry, is it bad language when, upon the floor of the House, I declared against the ostracism of any man by reason of his religious connections, when I proclaimed that my principles were that while no man should receive office by reason of his religion, that in this free country no man should be excluded from office because of his religion? (Loud cheers.) Does that savor of intolerance and bigotry? Is that raising the red flag of intolerance throughout the country? No man can say so; it is an un-

qualified misstatement. (Laughter and cheers.)

Nothing to do With Religion. Was it intolerant or was it bigotry when I proclaimed, in making the appeal to my countrymen which I make, upon what I believe to be a high public ground, I wanted them to avoid all attacks upon any man's religion? We have nothing to do with any man's religion; it should be free to every man to worship at whatever altar he pleases, and no man shall say him nay, and I have appealed, and do appeal, that no man in the contest in which we are about to enter shall cause this contest, these questions, burning questions as they are, to degenerate in a war against religion. Is this bigotry? Is this intolerance? (Voices, "No, no.") These are the charges that are made against me, and I say again they are made without foundation. I am a hungry adventurer? (Laughter.) Hungry for what? Hungry for position? Wanted to Retire. Those who sit upon the platform know if my way had been accepted I would and I would have been a traitor if I had not responded. (Cheers.) Adventurer, am I? When this worthy man was still upon the green hills of Ireland my feet were planted in the soil of Canada. (Applause.) I was born upon a free soil; I have lived my life-time there, and I hope to die there, and I appeal to those amongst whom I have lived, to those who have known me, if ever a breath of a charge of intolerance has ever been made against me, unless it was for unworthy purposes, by a party which is staggering to its fall. (Applause.) Now, Mr. Chairman, I must say a word, too, in regard to all the questions which have agitated my venerable friend. I do not understand that to discuss the Separate school question ought to raise any sectarian issue in this country. It is no way involves any question of race or creed unless you choose to make it so. (Voices—You are trying to get votes by it.)

Mr. Meredith—The gentleman is just as unfair to me as the gentleman I have been referring to, I venture to say if I had consulted what my own interests were I would not have been a party to raise these questions. I am going to the country. I feel it my duty in the interests of this country, present and future, that I should stand by those principles in which I believe. (Applause.) I do not care whether it makes votes or loses votes. (Applause.) In regard to my position on the Separate school question, I believe it would be eminently in the interests of this country if we had one national system of education. (Applause.) I believe that all, Catholic and Protestant, if we had that system here, would soon recognize it as the best for all, where our children should go side by side, instead of from the cradle to the grave being severed into hostile paths. It is not within our province or power to make any constitution such as that, but I want to say this, if ever the day does come when there shall be a live agitation for the abolition of Separate schools in this Province it is such conduct as that of his grace of Kingston that will lead the people of this country to say it is not safe to entrust the young of this country to sentiments and opinions such as these. (Applause.)

Those Who Take Care Break. While I believe in standing by the constitution, by the Act of Confederation, I want to tell him that constitutions are made by the people, and that if ever it becomes in the great interests of the people to change that constitution the same high authority that made them can revoke them. (Applause.) But the constitution has given Separate schools to the Roman Catholics of this Province, and I want loyally to live by the constitution, but what I say is that the schools are schools in which the state shall be the chief and the citizens shall be the dispenser of the money and control all the schools. (Hear, hear.) I say you will search in vain the history of this country, search our statute book to find the control of any schools given to any church. We permit the Roman Catholic citizens to establish their schools under certain conditions; but I say they are State schools, and the state must control them. (Applause.)

Separate Schools and the State. If the state is entitled to require its children to be educated, and that is essential in a democratic country, it follows that every school that shares in the public moneys shall be a school which the state has the right to control and in regard to which the state has the right to deal. (Hear, hear.) In all this controversy what I have said is this, I want the ballot applied to separate and public schools. (Hear, hear.) I want not a sham ballot, such as we passed last session, but I want the real ballot by which every voter, every public or separate school voter, can go to the polls and cast his ballot uninfluenced by anybody. I want to know if there is any bigotry or intolerance in that. (Voices—No, no.) I want these schools shall be made as perfect as possible. These schools have been in existence in this country for upwards of 30 years. I say this in no sense of casting reflections upon the separate schools, but I want to know in there anything in the comparison between the separate and public schools that will show any advantage in the separate over the public schools in that time? I venture to say no. I want to make these schools as perfect as possible. Qualified Teachers. What I say is, every teacher in these schools should have the same qualifications as a teacher in the Public schools. (Hear, hear.) I want that in these schools, apart from religious instruction, I would not impose that upon anybody against his conscience, that the textbooks used in the Public schools shall be used in the Separate schools. (Hear, hear.) Is there any difference between

the arithmetic that a Catholic and a Protestant would study? Ought there to be any difference in the history? (Voices—No, no.) The argument about history means this, that two different kinds of history have been taught to the children of this country; that they are brought up on different and antagonistic lines, and much rather would I see the text-book of the history put in such a position that these disputed points were left out altogether than the children should be educated into opposing views of the history of the great nation from which we have sprung. (Applause.)

Same Interpretation for All. I want also that these Separate schools should be subject to the same inspection as the schools of the Province of Ontario. (Hear, hear.) These are the four main points from which I have asked the people of this country to support the Opposition, as far as the school ballot is concerned. I want to know whether we cannot discuss these without importing race and religious questions into them. Is there any reason why it should be a sectarian issue? There is none at all, and those who import these matters into it do it for an unworthy purpose. I shall endeavor, as in the past, to conduct the controversy in this matter as one who has the interests of his country at heart, and I believe it will be in the interests of the country that the policy which I agitate shall be sustained by the people of this Province. I am going to advocate it in the face of defeat. I will advocate it party only because my party asked me have preferred two years ago to have retired from public life and devoted myself to my family. (Cheers.) I am now upholding the honor of the Conservative whatever the result may be.

SIR OLIVER!

He Defends the Separate School System as It Exists.

AND GIVES HIS REASONS.

Authorized Text Books With the Exception of Histories and Readers Used.

HE OBJECTS TO THE SAME INSPECTORS

Only Poor Schools Employ Teachers Who Have Not Qualified by Regular Examinations.



SIR OLIVER MOWAT.

In his address at London Sir Oliver Mowat made the following defence of the treatment accorded by the Liberals to the Separate Schools. The question of Separate Schools occupied a large part of the attention of your late member in his speech here, he complained because we would not insist upon a compulsory ballot system for the Separate Schools. What we have done is to give Separate School supporters the option of the ballot in the same way as the Public School supporters have the option of the ballot. They are precisely on the same footing in that respect. No one would footing in that respect, but I say they are not imposing the compulsory ballot upon Public School supporters, except for the very purpose of imposing it upon Separate Schools. Now we cannot see that that is fair or called for in any way. The ballot is a very good system. Ultimately I believe it will be adopted for all purposes, but then let us wait until those affected by it are prepared for it. Comes From Anti-Catholics. "It is not to be wondered at that the ballot for Separate schools will be opposed when it comes from the anti-Catholic party, when it comes from those who are against Separate schools, when it comes from those who wish to render them less efficient and to abolish them if possible, and to urge it upon grounds which we must admit, Protestants as we are, to be an insult, as it is felt to be by the Roman Catholics themselves. What are we told as a reason for it? Why, practically—and it is the only reason on which the suggestion for this change can be made—that the laity are coerced by their priest, and that they require protection against their priest. Is it any wonder that Catholics combine against a proposition of that sort? It would be a wonder if they did not combine against it. I am quite sure any Protestant denomination would combine if an insult of that kind were offered to them. Qualified Teachers. Then Mr. Meredith says that he wants the teachers in Roman Catholic schools to be subject to the same examinations and have the same qualifications as teachers in Public schools. But that is the law now, with one exception, and a not very material one, which I will mention. They are still required to have the same examination and the

same qualifications, and the exception is one which we have no power over. Mr. Meredith admits we have no power over Separate schools, that whatever rights they had at the time of Confederation are beyond our power, that the B. N. A. Act gives us no jurisdiction regarding it. It is just one of these rights and privileges which the Act of 1867 incorporates, which was in force at the time of Confederation. It was provided that these schools should have teachers, either qualified by the law of Ontario or Upper Canada, which then, I must say, was part of the law of Lower Canada, and, therefore, they are now entitled to take teachers that are qualified to be such by the laws of Lower Canada. Reasons for the Exception. "The reason they wish to stand by that is because many of these schools are poor, and it is important to them to get teachers at the lowest possible expense, and a teacher from their religious orders properly qualified comes to them at the least expense. But, at all events, they have a right to this, in the same way as they have a right to Separate schools themselves and we have no power to change it. Mr. Meredith says also that the Separate schools should be subject to the same inspection as the Public schools, that they are State schools and ought to be subject to the inspection of the State. Well, they are subject to the inspection of the State. There are inspectors of Separate schools appointed by the State, and they are as thoroughly competent for their work as the inspectors of Public schools are, and they are as zealous in their duty, they are as efficient inspectors, they are as useful inspectors. What does he complain of? The Same Inspection. "He does not, I think, say so, but what he wants is that they should have the same inspectors as the Public schools, and who are in almost every instance Protestants. Now we do not think that a reasonable thing. Dr. Ryerson did not think it a reasonable thing. The Separate schools in his day were not inspected by the Public School inspectors. He had them inspected by the High School inspectors, who did not inspect the Public schools; but gradually the High School inspectors had so much to do in their proper work as High School inspectors that they were unable to discharge this duty. Well, then, we had to consider what was to be done. Should we appoint more High School inspectors than are required for other purposes in order that this inspection of Separate Schools might be performed? We thought the best course would be the somewhat less expensive course, and altogether the advantageous course, to appoint Catholic inspectors for this special purpose of inspecting the Separate Schools, and we appointed thoroughly efficient men? (Applause.)

Don't Want the Histories. "His next complaint is in regard to text-books. He would have a law by which the Separate School Trustees should be obliged to use the same text-books as are used in the Public schools. Well, now, the Public school text-books are very largely used in the Separate schools, and are being used from time to time in a still larger number. Ultimately, with the exception of one or two of these books, with the exception of readers, perhaps, and possibly histories, I have no doubt in a short time they will be generally used, because there is no reason why they should not. They are very good books. There are none better, there are none cheaper, and the Separate schools are falling into them. There is, no doubt, a difficulty with regard to the readers. They are entitled to teach their religious tenets in these schools. That is practically granted them by the British North America Act, and it is part of their system that this religious instruction should be communicated in the books which the children use as readers. Of course, our children contain no instruction of that kind, they do. A Right to Religious Instruction. "They claim they have a right to have this religious instruction imparted, and that we cannot withdraw the right, deprive them of the privilege, of giving this instruction by means of the reader. I am not prepared to deny that proposition. I am not prepared to take away from them that right or privilege. We cannot take it away from them if it be a right or privilege, because every right was guaranteed by the act of Confederation which they had at that time. I claim that in dealing with the Roman Catholics we have been just doing our duty. We are Protestants, and we have recognized the duty of being fair to persons of every creed, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic. We have recognized the duty of protecting minorities in their rights as well as majorities in their rights. The Protestants of this country are quite strong enough to recognize the practical application of that principle. We have acted upon it during our whole term; we are acting upon it now; we desire to continue acting upon it."

Catholic Education First. The document then referred to length in the manner in which Joseph and Mary cared for Jesus during his boyhood, and continued as follows:—"It is the first duty of the Christian religion imposed upon every parent to do this for his child by means of thorough Christian education. It is the duty of the priests to see that no Christian parent neglects the most essential of all parental obligations, it is my duty as chief pastor of this diocese to require both parents and priests to fulfill every command of God that lies upon them, and first of all, and beyond all, this command to rear the children of God for God in the likeness of the boy Jesus of Nazareth. It is the duty of every Christian man, be he parent or not, to uphold and defend in every legitimate way this inalienable right of Catholic citizens that no combination of secret societies hostile to the Christian religion, and most particularly to the Christian education of youth, shall be successfully formed against their religious and civil liberties in this Province. Catholics are Loyal. "We are loyal to our Queen and constitution; we are peace-loving citizens; we desire to live in peace and harmony with our fellow men. It is a shame to Ontario, a shame to civilization, that a motley crowd of secret society men should form a conspiracy against the Catholic minority every fourth year, and just now should import from the adjoining republic an infamous anti-Christian and anti-social organization to combine with them in aggression upon our dearest religious rights and our peace as citizens. This is subversive of good order and good-will among the citizens of Ontario. This new combination aims at turning our fair province into a pandemonium. We are fully confident the Protestant majority will show no favor in this warfare against society. We believe that the respectable Conservatives will now, as four years ago, frown down upon the effort to disgrace Conservatism in the eyes of all men by the dragging of the Conservative flag through the mire of anti-Christian bigotry and intolerance. No Persecution. "True Conservatism repudiates the persecution of any section of the community on account of their religious belief and practice. It holds conscience in high respect and treats it as sacred. The true Conservatives ought to be the friends of the Catholics, and we know that generally speaking they are, and have frequently given proof of their good-will and fair consideration towards the Catholics in this Province as well as throughout the Dominion. It is pseudo-Conservatism that professes with the lips to respect all religious beliefs and by a mental reservation hardly disguised makes an exception of Catholic belief, and almost in the same breath calls for penal legislation and the infliction of heavy fines in the form of double school tax against all the Catholic parents of the Province who dare to observe the first precepts of their religion by giving Christian education to their offspring. Meredith's Last Language. "The very bad language of the leader of the Opposition, the open alliance between his party and the shameful organization known as the P. P. A., the vote given by him and his entire following, with barely one exception in favor of the McCallum Bill, which proposed the

MGR. CLEARY.

He Calls the Opposition Leader a Hungry Adventurer.

A PASTORAL TO HIS FLOCK.

The Archbishop Has Apparently Arrayed His Church Against W. R. Meredith.

ALLEGED FORCES OF EVIL DENOUNCED.

A Document Which is Playing No Important Part in the Present Election Contest.



Archbishop Cleary, of Kingston, a few days ago issued a pastoral on political and educational affairs to his flock. After pointing out the duty of parents towards their children, the document said:—"This primary parental obligation is all the more imperative because the atmosphere of the Province is poisoned just now by the anti-Christian doctrines of a host of impious journals, and the lying speeches of no-popey politicians and place hunters in Parliament and out of it who are striving to attain to power and the handling of the public purse by proclaiming a mean and dishonorable warfare against the Catholic minority. Her Majesty's most loyal and law-abiding subjects. It is mean enough to make war on a minority, but it is an unspeakable outrage upon civilization to concentrate the combined forces of attack upon our innocent children, whom they are trying to deprive of their most sacred rights, in which their welfare for all time and eternity is inseparably bound up."

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utter abolition of our constitutional right to supply Christian education to our little ones are all in direct contradiction to the principles of Conservatism. Why should not political elections be conducted on political issues? Why should the Province be periodically disturbed and neighbors forced into quarrels with one another by making no popey the campaign cry in this, as in elections of 1886 and 1890? Why, I repeat, should respectable Conservatism be brought in to disrepute and the true Conservatism of Ontario be made a by-word of reproach by tolerating the hypocrisy of a hungry adventurer, who employs the term "Conservative" as a blind for the deception of the ignorant and the persecution of his Catholic fellow-citizens?"

After pointing out the duty of parents towards their children, the document said:—"This primary parental obligation is all the more imperative because the atmosphere of the Province is poisoned just now by the anti-Christian doctrines of a host of impious journals, and the lying speeches of no-popey politicians and place hunters in Parliament and out of it who are striving to attain to power and the handling of the public purse by proclaiming a mean and dishonorable warfare against the Catholic minority. Her Majesty's most loyal and law-abiding subjects. It is mean enough to make war on a minority, but it is an unspeakable outrage upon civilization to concentrate the combined forces of attack upon our innocent children, whom they are trying to deprive of their most sacred rights, in which their welfare for all time and eternity is inseparably bound up."

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TO THE POLLS

The Catholic Register Issues a Call to the Catholic Electorate.

MEREDITH MUST BE BEATEN

Accused of Making War on Their Religion and Their School System.

A SOLID VOTE SHOULD BE CAST AGAINST HIM

An Editorial of an Extraordinary Campaign Document—What Will Its Effect Be?

The following is from the Toronto Catholic Register of May 28, on the school question:—"Duty calls. More strictly speaking, we are driven to it. The insolent policy that threatens our schools has driven us to it. The unprincipled appeal to bigotry and the still more unprincipled attempt to keep our people from all office and representation, are reasons why we and every other Catholic in the land should make our voice heard in the silent yet powerful ballot which, as citizens, it is our right to use. That right sometimes becomes a duty—a duty which we may owe no less to the sacred cause of our faith than we do to our country. Ravages of Bigots. "We cannot stand idly by and see this Province given up to the desecrating ravages of bigots who hate what we hold dear, and who insult what we love most. That is the duty we owe our country. We cannot hand over the grave interests of our co-religionists to a party whose avowed policy is in matters of education, to render our schools unworkable and de-Catholicize them so that they will be merely Separate in name. To prevent this disaster is a duty we owe our conscience. This is the twofold duty which the Catholics of Ontario are called upon to fulfill four weeks from next Tuesday. It is a shame to Ontario, a shame to civilization, that a motley crowd of secret society men should form a conspiracy against the Catholic minority every fourth year, and just now should import from the adjoining republic an infamous anti-Christian and anti-social organization to combine with them in aggression upon our dearest religious rights and our peace as citizens. This is subversive of good order and good-will among the citizens of Ontario. This new combination aims at turning our fair province into a pandemonium. We are fully confident the Protestant majority will show no favor in this warfare against society. We believe that the respectable Conservatives will now, as four years ago, frown down upon the effort to disgrace Conservatism in the eyes of all men by the dragging of the Conservative flag through the mire of anti-Christian bigotry and intolerance. No Persecution. "True Conservatism repudiates the persecution of any section of the community on account of their religious belief and practice. It holds conscience in high respect and treats it as sacred. The true Conservatives ought to be the friends of the Catholics, and we know that generally speaking they are, and have frequently given proof of their good-will and fair consideration towards the Catholics in this Province as well as throughout the Dominion. It is pseudo-Conservatism that professes with the lips to respect all religious beliefs and by a mental reservation hardly disguised makes an exception of Catholic belief, and almost in the same breath calls for penal legislation and the infliction of heavy fines in the form of double school tax against all the Catholic parents of the Province who dare to observe the first precepts of their religion by giving Christian education to their offspring. Meredith's Last Language. "The very bad language of the leader of the Opposition, the open alliance between his party and the shameful organization known as the P. P. A., the vote given by him and his entire following, with barely one exception in favor of the McCallum Bill, which proposed the

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LARGEST CIRCULATION IN ONTARIO.

