

cept that. The average citizen of the Territories, if asked to accept the autonomy of the province of Ontario, would at first blush say yes; but some of us on inquiring a little further would say: Certainly not; there is a limitation in Ontario with regard to schools which we do not want to apply in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and in these Bills it is not applied.

Mr. SPROULE. Might I ask the hon. gentleman one question? I understood him to say that the Northwest provinces are getting exactly the same provincial autonomy as the other provinces. Is it not a fact that every province in confederation today, except Ontario and Quebec, has the absolute right to legislate with regard to education?

Mr. SCOTT. I have endeavoured to explain to the House very clearly my position on that point—that there are no two provinces in Canada with exactly the same measure of autonomy, and probably the people of the Northwest Territories would not be willing to accept the exact position occupied by any other single province in Canada. I believe that the provisions of these Bills will place the Northwest Territories in a position as nearly as possible of absolute and satisfactory average equality with the other provinces of Canada. I know that the hon. member for East Grey, in the depth of his sincerity, would like to have a contrary impression created. I said a moment ago that there were some misconceptions prevailing, and we have heard some of them voiced in this House. I am going to read to the House a communication which I have received which puts those misconceptions a little more bluntly than we hear them put in this House, but it expresses the same spirit. This letter reached me this week. To satisfy my hon. friend from East Grey, I will say at the beginning that I am not going to give the name.

Mr. SPROULE. Then you should not read it. If a letter is quoted in this House it should be laid on the table. I appeal to the Speaker if I am not correct.

Mr. BRODEUR. The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken. It is only official documents which are to be laid on the table, not private letters of members.

Mr. SPROULE. A member has no right to quote anything in this House that he is not willing to give the authorship of.

Mr. SCOTT. In this particular case there need be no dispute, because there was no name on the letter. It was signed 'A Lover of Freedom,' and is as follows:

Walter Scott, Esq., M.P.,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—It is with a feeling of shame I read your letter from a clipping sent me from Ontario addressed to A. Banner, of Maple Creek,

and I must say I feel ashamed of those representatives of the citizens of Canada who purpose voting for such an infamous measure as the separate school clause makes, of the Autonomy Bill, with which it is the purpose of the Laurier government to shackle for all time to come the new provinces of Canada. Rather than vote for such a measure I would drown myself or commit suicide in some way, or flee to some place of exile or desert island where no self-respecting man could look me in the face. Have you no eyes? Have you never read history? Are you not conversant with the current newspaper news—

The writer, I suppose, must have been reading the Toronto 'News.'

—or have you not any conscience, that for the sake of party-politics or for the sake of the emoluments and patronage of the party in power, you propose to shackle the poor ignorant Roman Catholics of these new provinces with the fetters of Romish priesthood, and keep them in ignorance for all time to come? Look at the peasants of Russia, and of Spain and of Italy and Mexico and Cuba, and all the petty republics of South America where the hierarchy of Rome have the ruling of the people. Look even at your own province of Quebec, and at Manitoba, before it was set free by the Liberal party; and behold the result of the power of Rome in educational matters; and with all that before your eyes, you still declare that, as far as your vote will do so, you will put shackles on the Catholic element who do not know enough to resist, as well as the coming generations of Catholics for all time to come, in a territory ruled by British freemen, and in extent nearly half a continent.

An hon. MEMBER. That sounds like Sproule.

Mr. SCOTT (reading):

—Why are the Russian peasantry so ignorant? Is it not because it suits the purposes of the Greek and Roman churches to keep them in ignorance? And what is true of Russia is also true of every country in the world where the hierarchy of Rome holds sway. You have a Roman Catholic premier in power at Ottawa, and a servile majority at his back whom he purposes to control in the interests of the hierarchy, and is making an attempt to shackle the greater part of the territory of Canada as it has done the laity of the Roman Catholic population of Ontario and Quebec. Be warned in time. Do not permit your name to go down in history as one who was a party to such infamy and calamity to a people that ought to be free. Be a man, do the right thing, and let the Roman Catholic hierarchy go to the devil where they belong.

A LOVER OF FREEDOM.

Mr. INGRAM. Is this one of the hon. gentleman's electors?

Mr. SCOTT. I am proud indeed to say that that letter was not posted from my constituency, and for the benefit of my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule), I will add that I absolve him entirely from any connection with that letter, I merely give it as an expression of a spirit which unfortunately is evident sometimes in this