Dear Sir,

You will please accept my acknowledgments for your letter of the 10th instant. It contains a new proof of your kind desire to divert from me the shafts of open enemies and apparent friends.

While I do not doubt that your friendly views are as true as they are kind or agree to myself, yet you will permit me to observe that confiding always in truth and in the intelligence of the people, I have not feared at any time to avail distinctly and maintain in argument and action the principles and measures which are involved in the effort to extend the System of Common School Education to all the children of the State. Nor do the temporary misconstruction and misrepresentation through which I am passing alarm me. In this as in all other cases I deem it only necessary that my opinions and proceedings be fairly and frankly communicated even under circumstances most unfavourable to a candid judgment of them, and I cheerfully trust the conclusion of them with my country. Public opinion is the great agent in this country in accomplishing all measures designed to promote the public welfare. That agent cannot be called into operation without producing excitement and agitation. Through all the excitement and agitation which the present discussion produces I look to the great ends of the equal dissemination of knowledge and the consequent improvement of society.

I trust that my public life has shown that I never hesitate to present even an unbeautiful
the education of their children. Moreover I write all who may take the trouble to look through the records of my public action and to institute an inquiry into my private correspondence and communica
tions, and if a word or thought inconsistent with the public opinion I have expressed shall be pro
duced, I shall cheerfully acknowledge the justice of those who have temporarily delayed the accom-
plishment of the great public measures I advocate by questioning the sincerity with which they
have been recommended. It cannot be necessary to say to you, Sir, that I deny altogether the design
attributed to me of breaking up the public schools of New-York. I would, on the contrary, increase their
efficiency if possible, while I open new doors to those of other equally useful institutions to those who
are for any cause desirous of the advantages of education they afford.

In regard to the reform desired, I adopt the apostolic injunction, in which all into
Christian and Human Christians agree, "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good."

I am, dear Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

William H. Seward,

The Right Reverend

John Hughes,

Bishop Conception &

New York.
truth to my fellow citizens; and although I have sometimes been in advance of public opinion, all will agree that I have no reason to complain of the want of kindness on the part of the people. I know that truth will ultimately become acceptable. So in regard to the present state of the school question, I am pleased that the real interest of the Catholic in the question should be known. If it were true, as some contend, that some but Catholic children are neglected, I would nevertheless maintain that the Catholic children ought to be educated. If it be true that some but Catholic complain I uphold the Catholic in complaining. If Catholic only are offended or conspire I maintain that that offense ought not to be continued by authority of law. Many Protestants have been offended because they feared that by obtaining equal advantages of education for their children Catholic might acquire undue influence; and on the other hand, many Catholics have been led by misrepresentation to believe that such liberal sentiments as I have advanced could not be sincere. I believe you, my dear Sir, that during all the agitation which we have been, I have had but one cause of regret, which was that notwithstanding I have never affected concealment, nor even spoken directly yet for a brief time when I was a candidate for public favor, and political and religious excitement ran very high, an impression was to a limited extent made upon the public mind unfavorable to the sincerity of the opinions I have publicly expressed. The time has now arrived for my vindication. I am not now a candidate, nor can I foresee an occasion when I shall either feel it my duty or have a desire to offer myself for the suffrages of my fellow citizens. Whatever may have been thought heretofore, I can afford now at least to be frank and honest. I reaffirm these抱着 sole. I have before promulgated concerning the policy of the country in regard to foreign and