

BI-LINGUAL SCHOOLS IN CANADA

little efficacy or unequal to local exigencies. Then as regards Separate Schools, it is pointed out that if French were taught in the manner claimed by the French-Canadians, it would be greatly detrimental to the proper teaching of English, which is the language of the Province, and prejudicial to the parents, who would be obliged, either to provide at their own expense that which is wanting in order that their children should be thoroughly and completely instructed in the English language, or else to abandon Catholic schools and send their sons to the public or neutral schools, which would be totally wrong. Finally it is contended that this system of education may provoke the ill-will of the State authorities against the Separate Schools on the ground that they prove inadequate to the needs of the public welfare, and thus endanger the benefit of the law authorizing Catholics to have their own Separate Schools, which it is in the greatest interest of religion to safeguard and to maintain. And would that all these points were the subject of calm and peaceful debates! In fact, as if the nation or religion itself were at stake, these matters are so bitterly discussed in the daily and weekly press, in books and pamphlets, in private conversations and at public meetings, that men's minds get more and more passionately inflamed, and the conflict between the two contending parties daily becomes more hopelessly irremediable.

It is with a view to furnishing a fitting remedy to so grievous an evil that We desire to open Our mind to you, Venerable Brethren, whom We know to be ever in close union with Us. Rest assured then, that there is nothing you could do more pleasing to Us than that you should make every utmost effort, in peace and charity, to restore agreement and concord amongst the faithful committed to your pastoral care. To use the words of Paul the Apostle: "I beseech you, brethren, by the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no schisms among you; but that you be perfect in the same mind and in the same judgment . . . supporting one another in charity to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." For we are the children of the same Father, we sit at the same table, we share the same sacraments, and are called to the same happiness: baptized into one body. . . . and in one spirit we have all been made to drink." "As many of you as have been baptized in Christ, have