

of losing the State subsidy thus compels French Protestantism to keep up the force of an ecclesiastical unity, though unity of faith or doctrine is no longer possible. All this is very instructive and highly amusing to Catholic lookers on.

Our Protestant fellow-citizens are about to commence an agitation for an amendment to the Lower Canada School Laws. A preliminary meeting for this purpose was held on Monday afternoon in the Mechanics Institute, when the chief grievances of which Protestants complain were enumerated; and a Committee was appointed to inquire into the working of the School Law, with the view to the formation of an association for the protection of Protestant interests in Lower Canada, in matters relating to education. It will be seen that the grievances indicated are precisely the same as those of which the Catholic minority of Upper Canada complained, and which Protestants, if they had the power would perpetuate. This however is no reason why Catholics in Lower Canada should act unjustly. Two wrongs do not make one right.

Mr. Lunn was Chairman of the meeting, and indicated the grievances for which it was proposed to obtain redress:—

1. "In Lower Canada if there are not Protestants enough to support a separate school, they are taxed the same as the Roman Catholics, and the amount thus obtained goes to the support of the Catholic school."

In the Western Province we can find the perfect counterpart of this grievance:—

In Upper Canada if there are not Catholics enough to support a separate school, they are taxed the same as the Protestants, and the amount thus obtained goes to the support of the Protestant school. The second grievance of the Protestants in Lower Canada, was thus stated by Mr. Lunn:—

2. "There was no other alternative left to Protestants when their number was small than either to send their children to Roman Catholic schools, or to let them grow up in ignorance at home."

So again Catholics in the Upper Province with equal truth complain that:—

There is no other alternative left to Catholics when their number is small, than either to send their children to the Protestant schools, or to let them grow up in ignorance at home.

Mr. Lunn complained also that of the twelve members of the Council of Public Instruction in Lower Canada, nine were Catholic ecclesiastics, and three Protestant, and that to this Council the selection of books for the use of Schools was committed: but as he also admitted that, at the request of Dr. Fulford—the Anglican Bishop—the selection of books for the use of the Protestant schools was left entirely to the last named gentleman, it does not appear as if our separated brethren had much to complain of in this respect.

Another speaker, a Rev. Mr. Snodgrass, cited another grievance: that school sections were purposely so divided as to weaken the Protestant element in each section, and thus to render it impossible for Protestants to maintain a school in any one of them.

As to the truth of this allegation we are not competent to express an opinion: but in the language of honorable legislators 'we are free to confess' that, it true, Protestants have been unjustly dealt with: that redress immediate and ample should be awarded them; and that our Protestant fellow-citizens should henceforward be left perfectly free to circumscribe their own school sections as they please, and as most convenient to themselves. We repudiate altogether that system of two sets of weights and measures, in which Protestants indulge themselves; and we would in every case give cheerfully and fully to Protestants when in the minority, all that we, when similarly circumstanced, claim for ourselves.

We can understand, though we do not approve of, the arguments of those who condemn 'separate schools' entirely, as repugnant to, indeed incompatible with, the 'common school' principle. He also who advocates a 'separate school' system, and claims for that system all the advantages accorded by law to the 'common school' system, pursues an intelligible and logical course of action. But it is neither honest nor logical to admit the claims of either Protestant or Catholic, to 'separate schools,' and then to hamper that admission with so many restrictions as to render the establishment of 'separate schools' impossible, or even difficult. There will always of course exist social difficulties, social impediments, with which the Legislature is impotent to deal; but all legal or artificial obstacles interposed in the way of the full fruition of that right which minorities, whether Catholic or Protestant, are recognised as possessing over the education of their children, should at once be effaced. There will ever be cases which no law can meet—as for instance that of two or three poor Catholic or Protestant families in the midst of a large and wealthy Protestant or Catholic population. To families so situated no School Law, however skillfully conceived, or impartially administered, can bring relief; nor would their position be in any ameliorated by the repeal of all School Laws, and the adoption of the Voluntary system: Still would they be obliged, either to send their children to schools under hostile religious control, or to keep them at home in ignorance.

One word only as to the composition of the Committee. It consists of one layman, and six Protestant ministers. This is of course by no means objectionable in our eyes, or repugnant to our principles; but we see not how Protestants reconcile it with their favorite axiom, that 'clergymen should not meddle with politics; and their fervent denunciations of the action of the Romish ecclesiastics in the Upper Canada School question.

In *L'Echo Du Cabinet de Lecture Paroissial* we find an interesting biographical notice of the Rev. Joseph Comte, lately deceased, and for many years one of the priests of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, and the *Procureur* of that body. Our readers will gladly receive some particulars of the career of this worthy servant of God, whose whole life was devoted to his sacred calling.

M. Joseph Comte was born in Montreal in June, 1793, of respectable parents. At an early age he distinguished himself amongst his school fellows by his brilliant talents, and his application. These qualities attracted the notice of M. Boussin, then one of the Professors of the College of Montreal, and at his instigation the young Comte commenced his course of classical studies. At that time there were in the Seminary a number of those heroic confessor of the faith whom persecution had driven from France, and who had found an asylum in Canada. From these, and from the contemplation of their virtues, the young student received an impression that never afterwards forsook him, and made him determine to embrace the ecclesiastical state to which God seemed so evidently to have called him.

At College, as at school, his superior talents and his assiduity soon won for him an honorable place amongst his fellows; so that the latter used to remark that, what was toilsome study for them, was for him but sport. In mathematics he especially distinguished himself, and carried off the palm from all competitors.

In 1812, at the age of 19, he commenced his Theological studies, which he pursued with the same diligence and success; whilst at the same time during three years his services were in requisition as a teacher, and in 1815 he had already commenced giving lectures in Theology. Amongst his pupils at this epoch of his life may be enumerated the Rev. M.M. Bonin and Aubry of the Diocese of Montreal, and the Rev. M. Gingras of the Seminary of Quebec.

At last the day to which he had long looked forward arrived, and on the 10th of August, 1817, he received from the hands of Monseigneur Plessis the Holy Order of the Priesthood and on the following year he applied to be received into the Seminary. The Rev. M. Roux at that time Superior, gladly complied with this request, for already had he learnt to appreciate the merits of his new brother. "This young Comte," he said, "is qualified to fill any situation in the house;" and in 1820 the Rev. M. Riviere, Professor of Rhetoric in the College, having died, M. Comte was appointed as his successor. This post he did not hold long, for in a few months he was summoned to exercise the functions of sub-*Procureur* under M. Bourneuf, and afterwards M. Bedard. This last having died in 1825 he was named *Procureur*, a post which he held for 39 years, and to day of his death.

Of all the situations in the Seminary of Saint Sulpice, after that of Superior, that of *Procureur* is the most important, and the most arduous. M. Comte entered upon the duties of his office at a critical period, when the proprietary rights of the Seminary, acquired by immense sacrifices during the space of two centuries, were being violently contested. A Religious Corporation in possession of such extensive domains was looked upon with a jealous eye; and although the Sulpicians devoted their entire revenues to religion, education, charity, and the development of the resources of a City which owes its high position as chief City of Canada to the Seminary—nevertheless there were many who would have rejoiced in seeing it robbed of its property. Besides the religious and national jealousies which provoked the hostility of some against the Seminary, there were misunderstandings with the Government to be contended with, political troubles, and a thousand of legal questions in Parliament, to meet, which demanded a rare combination of prudence and an exquisite tact. To all these causes of inquietude add that of the state of Legislation in Canada with respect to real estate, and which exacts such nice discernment in its daily application. Such were the difficulties with which M. Comte had to contend; and how he surmounted all these difficulties during the course of his long career is well known to the public.

His first care on entering upon the functions of his new office was to make himself thoroughly master of the laws and customs relating to the tenure of landed property. So successful was he that he soon acquired the reputation of being the best read man on these topics in the country. The most learned of our jurisconsults, and especially the late Sir L. Lafontaine, used to come to him for advice. His decisions were received as oracles, and had almost the force of law. Here is a case in point which we—*L'Echo*—tell, as it has been told to us.

A case was pending in Court. Judges and Advocates were alike embarrassed, so obscure and complicated did it appear. A junior member of the Bar, full of talent, presented to the President a *Memoir* in which the whole case was put in the clearest light. "Sir," said the Judge to him after having read it attentively—

"I know and greatly esteem your talents, but such a work as this requires a greater experience than yours." The modest lawyer thus addressed, replied—"That is true; honor must be given to whom it is due, and this *Memoir* is the work of M. Comte."

To this accurate knowledge of the law, the *Procureur* added a thorough acquaintance with business, a breadth of views, a clear-sightedness and a prudence which led him to the solution of the greatest difficulties in so bappy a manner as to elicit general admiration. Thus it sufficed for those who knew him to see his signature to the bottom of a contract, to know that everything therein was fully arranged, and in perfect order. To him and to the Rev. M. Quiblier the Seminary is indebted for the Royal Charter of 1840, which recognised and confirmed its rights. A few years later came up the discussion on the Seigneurial Tenure Law; aided by the wise and liberal counsels of M. Comte, the Seminary won the respect of the public of all origins for the just and liberal manner in which it availed itself of its legal rights.

During his administration the Parish Church of Notre Dame and many other churches throughout the city were built; the noble institution of the Great Seminary, the Schools of the Christian Brothers, and of the Sisters of the Congregation, wherein ten thousand children receive gratuitous education were founded; Asylums for the wretched, and other valuable works, all attest the skill and prudence with which the affairs of the Seminary were conducted by M. Comte.

As a priest M. Comte was as estimable for his piety, as in his official capacity of *Procureur* to the Community, he was distinguished for his learning. All his faculties were devoted to his God and to his community.

It is about two years ago that his health failed him. One morning on awaking he found himself almost quite blind, and he never fully recovered the use of his eyes. About the beginning of last winter, he visibly declined, and at length, paralysis having declared itself, he prepared himself to receive the last sacraments. Nevertheless he lingered on in great pain for about three weeks, retaining his mental faculties the last—so much so that on the 16th instant he was able to answer important questions connected with his department. In a few hours after he resigned his soul to the hands of God.

On Tuesday the 19th his body was laid in the grave in the usual place of sepulchre belonging to the clergy of Notre Dame, and beneath the vault of the Church. There he reposes in peace, awaiting the day of his glorious resurrection, when his many good works of zeal, of justice, and of charity, which the eye of God alone has seen, shall be manifested before all peoples, and shall contribute to the crown of glory of this venerable priest, whose whole life was devoted to the service of God and man.

"*Moriatur anima mea morte iustorum.*"—Numb. xxiii. 10.

We are requested to state that the Annual Pic-Nic of the St. Patrick's Society will take place during the coming month. The Committee are at present making arrangements, the result of which will shortly be announced.

To QUERIST.—No, certainly not. The Catholic Church never re-baptizes heretics; for baptism is a sacrament which cannot be administered a second time, and baptism administered by heretics is certainly valid.

But it is often doubtful whether a postulant for admission into the Catholic Church has ever been baptised at all, since Protestants are, as a body, generally indifferent about this sacrament, often deny its efficacy, and are invariably slovenly or negligent as to the manner in which they administer it. For these reasons, and as a salutary precaution, the Church gives "conditional baptism" to converts from amongst all Protestant sects, except in those cases where there exists a certainty that no baptism has been administered at all—as with the Baptists for instance, who admit only adults to the reception of this sacrament. But in no conceivable case does she ever re-baptize; and nothing can be plainer than her teaching upon this point, as may be seen from the Canons of the 7th session of the Council of Trent. In the fourth of these Canons she expressly declares the validity of baptism given by heretics in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and with the requisite intention—anathematizing all who gainsay it; and in the eleventh Canon of the same session she in like manner anathematizes all who assert that baptism can be administered a second time—even to those who amongst the heathen have openly renounced the Christian Faith. This should suffice to convince our querist that all statements that he may have met with in Protestant papers respecting the re-baptizing of converts from Protestantism to Catholicity, proceed from the ignorance or the mendacity of the writer.

CERCLE LITTÉRAIRE.—At the last meeting of this Society, on Monday, 9th inst., the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the current term:—President, M. U. E. Archambault; Vice-President, M. A. Desjardins; Recording-Secretary, M. A. Donsereau; Corresponding-Secretary, M. H. Mercier; Treasurer, M. J. A. Genand.

Next Sunday, 22nd inst., at half-past four o'clock, P.M., His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal will bless the first stone of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is to be built on the ground of St. Mary's College, Bleury Street.

PARLIAMENTARY.—A motion in opposition to the Canal Policy of the Ministry was accepted by the latter as a trial of strength. After several days debate, the division gave the Ministry a majority of Two, the numbers being 64 against 62. With such a trifling majority in their favor it is hardly possible that the present men can effectually carry on the business of the country, so that a dissolution and general election at no very distant date, may be expected.

Remittances in our next.

The St. Catherine's Post states that the population of St. Catherine's is now 8,273, this being an increase of two thousand in three years.

SECTIONAL DIFFICULTIES.—That a crisis in the political affairs of Canada is approaching, not even the most sanguine lover of his country can deny, and it is such a one too as will no doubt materially affect every interest commercial as well as political. We may regret this, but it is the greatest folly to shut our eyes to the fact and allow ourselves to drift into the vortex without making an effort to avoid it. The prudent man of business, when he perceives in the 'signs of the times' indications of a coming commercial crisis, at once sets himself to work to put his affairs in order to meet the coming storm, and if he cannot avoid it altogether, will be able, at all events, to save a portion of his effects from the common ruin around him. This course ought to be the one which our statesmen and politicians should elect to follow in the present emergency, for if we have not a political crisis on us in its full force we are certainly fast approaching that position, when the utmost sagacity and patriotism will be necessary to save our noble institutions from the wreck and ruin perceptible in a neighboring country. The ensanguined strife now devastating the country originated in sectional jealousy and mutual animosities; and through the ill-advised and injudicious advocacy of a peculiar political dogma by certain prominent men in Canada a similar feeling has been engendered between Upper and Lower Canada as existed for years, between the North and the South. There the statesmen proved unequal to grapple with the great dividing questions, holding all considerations of patriotism and of country subservient to the claims of party, and thus dragged their country into a civil war which, for magnitude and atrocity, has never had an equal, and we hope never will. Let us hope that Canadian statesmen—if we have any—will take warning by their fate, and so legislate that the bitter sectional strife in prospect may be avoided.—*St. Catherine's Journal (Reform).*

Two breaks were caused on the Grand Trunk by late freshets, the track being washed away between Cobourg and Colbourne.

Farmers from various parts of the country say that the low grounds are completely flooded by the recent heavy rains, in many places to the extent of four and five feet, doing more or less injury to the spring crops. Farming operations generally have been suspended or interfered with for the time being. Instances have occurred in which potato seeds planted on sloping grounds have been washed out and swept away, to such an extent as to make re-planting necessary.

HARD ON GREENBACKS.—An amusing circumstance happened the other day in Port Dover, which illustrates the marketableness of 'greenbacks' in Canada. A beggar entered the office of a business man in the village, and solicited contributions from the people who were there. Some gave a 5c. others 3 cents, and an American, having no silver small enough, handed him a \$1 U. S. Treasury Note.—The beggar looked at it and handed it back with the scornful remark, "I don't take such money as that." The American said we had little appreciation of United States currency in Canada, when even the beggars wouldn't take greenbacks for nothing.—*An Exchange Paper.*

DEATH FROM INTemperance.—The Dumfries Reformer states that on Sabbath morning last, a man named Denis Spillane was found lying dead on the floor of his house. An inquest was held, and from the evidence adduced we learn that deceased was employed on the macadamized road as a laborer, and on Saturday evening came home as usual about 7 o'clock. At that time he had not been indulging, but later in the evening his wife said he had taken two or three glasses. At twelve o'clock his wife tried to prevail on him to retire, but he would not, and she put the children to bed and shortly after followed herself. She heard her husband going to a closet where there was a bottle containing about a quart of whiskey, but she fell asleep and did not awaken until five o'clock on Sabbath morning, when she found deceased lying dead on the floor, face downwards. The whiskey was nearly all consumed. She said he had been in the habit of indulging very freely in intoxicating liquors, and when in this state would fall down unable to help himself. Dr. Richardson said he examined the body, and from the appearance of the face and statements of those who first saw it, was of opinion that death was caused by suffocation, through the inability of deceased to alter his position after he fell on the floor. The jury returned a verdict that he came to his death by suffocation while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Twenty-eight military convicts were sent from this city to Quebec, on their way to England last Friday evening. Eleven of the number were from our own military prison, the rest being from Upper Canada. They will be joined by others at Quebec.

Married, At Hogsburgh, N.Y., on the 11th inst., by the Rev. Dr. DeLuca, Donald J. McRae, Esq., of Dundee, O.E., to Miss Catherine McDougald, of Port Covington, N.Y., daughter of Angus McDougald, Esq., of North Lancaster, C.W.

Died, At Brookville, on Monday, 9th inst., in the 25th year of his age, Charles, second son of R. McSweeney, Esq., of Brookville. The deceased whose amiable disposition had much endeared him to all who knew him had but just returned home after a short absence when this heavy blow to his family and friends took place. He has left behind him numbers who deplore his loss, and who fervently pray for the repose of his soul.—*R.I.P.*

MONTEAL CATTLE-MARKET.—May 17. First Quality Cattle, \$7.50 to \$8.00; Second and third, \$6.00 to \$6.50. Milch Cows, ordinary, \$15 to \$20; extra, \$30 to \$35.—Sheep, \$5.00 to \$6.00; Lambs, \$2.50 to \$4.00. Hogs, \$5.75 to \$6.00; live-weight Hides \$5 to \$5.50. Pelts, \$1.75 to \$2 each. Tallow, rough 5c to 5 1/2c.—*Montreal Witness.*

TORONTO MARKETS.—May 14. Fall wheat 86c to 89c; bushel. Spring wheat 75c to 80c per bushel. Barley, 75c to 80c per bushel. Peas, 45c to 50c per bushel. Oats 45c to 47c. Pork \$5 to \$6 per 100 lbs.—*Globe.*

# MONTEAL RETAIL MARKET PRICES

(From the Montreal Witness.)

	May 17
Flour, country, per qd.....	8. d. 12 1/2
Oatmeal, do .....	12 6 to 12 1/2
Indian Meal .....	60 0 to 60 1/2
Peas per min .....	3 4 to 3 1/2
Beans, small white per min,	5 0 to 5 1/2
Honey, per lb .....	0 7 1/2 to 8
Potatoes, per bag .....	3 6 to 3 1/2
Dressed Hogs, per 100 lbs.	\$6.50 to \$7.00
Hay, per 100 bundles .....	\$9.00 to \$10.00
Straw .....	\$2.50 to \$3.00
Eggs, fresh, per dozen .....	0 6 1/2 to 0 7
Butter, fresh per lb .....	1 3 to 1 1/2
Do salt, do .....	0 12 1/2 to 1 3
Lard, do .....	0 7 1/2 to 8
Barley, do, for seed per 50 lbs.	3 0 to 3 1/2
Buckwheat .....	2 3 to 2 1/2
Flax Seed, do .....	0 0 to 0 1/2
Timothy, do .....	0 0 to 0 1/2
Oats, do .....	2 3 to 2 1/2
Turkeys, per couple, (old)	14 0 to 15 1/2
Fowls, do .....	2 6 to 3 1/2
Geese, (Wild) do .....	10 0 to 12 1/2
Ducks, (Wild) do .....	2 6 to 3 1/2
Maple Sugar .....	0 6 to 0 1/2
Maple Syrup, per gallon .....	6 0 to 6 1/2

## MONTEAL WHOLESALE MARKETS

Montreal, May 17, 1864.

Flour—Pollards, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Middlings, \$2.60 to \$3.10; Fine, \$3.50 to \$3.65; Super., No. 2, \$3.65 to \$3.90; Superfine \$4.00 to \$4.10; Fancy \$4.10 to \$4.70 to \$4.80; Superior Extra \$5.25 to \$5.50; Bag Flour, \$2.25 to \$2.27 1/2. Oatmeal per bbl of 200 lbs, \$4.80 to \$5.00; Wheat—U Canada Spring, 92c to 94c ex-cara; C. Winter, 90c. Asbes per 100 lbs, Pots, latest sales were at \$5.72 1/2; Inferior Pots, \$5.95 to \$6.00; Pearls, demand, at \$6.17 1/2 to \$6.22 1/2. Butter—There is a good demand, for New at 22c to 23c; fine to choice, suitable for home consumption, 20c to 22c. Eggs per doz, 11c. Lard per lb, fair demand at 8 1/2c to 9c. Tallow per lb, 8c to 8 1/2c. Cured Meats per lb, Hams, canvassed, 11c to 12 1/2c. Bacon, 5c to 6c. Pork—Quiet; New Mess, \$18.00 to \$18.00; Prime, \$16 to \$20.00; Prime, \$16.00 to \$20.00.—*Real Witness.*

## A. & D. SHANNON, GROCERS, Wine and Spirit Merchants, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, 38 AND 40 MCGILL STREET, MONTREAL.

HAVE constantly on hand a good assortment of Teas, Coffees, Sugars, Spices, Mustards, Provisional Hams, Salt, &c. Port, Sherry, Madeira, and other Wines, Brandy, Holland Gin, Scotch Whisky, Jamaica Spirits, Syrup, &c., &c. Country Merchants and Farmers would do well to give them a call as they will Trade with them on Liberal Terms. May 19, 1864.

## WANTED.

A PERSON, holding an Elementary School Diploma from the Catholic Board of Examiners of Quebec, wishes to obtain a Situation as Tutor or Schoolmaster. Can furnish good references, if required. Address, A. B. C., True Witness Office, Montreal. April 28, 1864.

## COLLEGE OF REGIOPOLIS

KINGSTON, C.W.

Under the Immediate Supervision of the Right Rev. E. J. Horan, Bishop of Kingston.

THE above Institution, situated in one of the most agreeable and healthful parts of Kingston, is now completely organized. Able Teachers have been provided for the various departments. The object of the Institution is to impart a good and solid education in the fullest sense of the word. The Academics, morals, and manners of the pupils will be an object of constant attention. The Course of instruction will include a complete Classical and Commercial Education. Particular attention will be given to French and English languages. A large and well selected Library will be open to the Pupils.

## TERMS:

Board and Tuition, \$100 per Annum (payable monthly in Advance.) Use of Library during stay, \$2. The Annual Session commences on the 1st September, and ends on the First Thursday of July. July 21st, 1861.

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Mr. W. Dalton is appointed Agent in this vicinity for the Ecclesiastical Year, advertised in the other column. Nos. 1 and 2 are now ready.