

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.

Our Protestant fellow-citizens are about to commence an agitation for an amendment to the Lower Canada School Laws.

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.

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, if 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 can understand, though we 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.

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.

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 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 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.

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.

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.

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 lauded property.

A case was pending in Court. Judges and Advocates were alike embarrassed, so obscure and complicated did it appear.

"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 breath 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.

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.

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.

We are requested to state that the Annual Pic-Nic of the St. Patrick's Society will take place during the coming month.

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.

CEROLE LITTELAIRE.—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.

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.

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.

HARD ON GREENBACKS.—An amusing circumstance happened the other day in Port Dover, which illustrates the marketableness of 'greenbacks' in Canada.

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.

At Hogansburgh, 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.

At Brockville, on Monday, 9th inst., in the 25th year of his age, Charles, second son of R. McSweeney, Esq., of Brockville. 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.

MONTREAL CATTLE-MARKET.—May 17. First Quality Cattle, \$7.50 to \$8.00; Second and third, \$6.00 to \$5.00.

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TORONTO MARKETS.—May 14. Fall wheat 86c to 85c; per bushel. Spring wheat 75c to 80c per bushel.

MONTREAL RETAIL MARKET PRICES (From the Montreal Witness.) Table listing prices for various commodities like Flour, Oatmeal, Indian Meal, Peas, Beans, Honey, Potatoes, etc.

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS Montreal, May 17, 1864. Table listing prices for Flour, Pollards, Middlings, etc.

A. & D. SHANNON GROCERS, Wine and Spirit Merchants, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, 38 AND 40 M'GILL STREET, MONTREAL.

WANTED. A PERSON, holding an Elementary School Diploma from the Catholic Board of Examiners of Quebec...

COLLEGE OF REGIOPOLIS KINGSTON, C.W., Under the Immediate Supervision of the Right Rev. E. J. Horan, Bishop of Kingston.

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