

istration of the government of Canada, the laws under which our whole school system is now organized, have been passed; that our normal and model schools have been established and rendered extensively useful; that the increase of pupils in our schools, the sums voluntarily provided by the people for their support, the improvements in the modes of conducting them, in the houses erected for them, as well as their conveniences and furniture, have advanced beyond all precedent; that a general system of public school libraries has been brought into successful operation, and that every feeling of the people is onward in education and knowledge, as well as in railroads, manufactures, commerce and agriculture."

An increase in the legislative provision for school libraries is about to be proposed in the present session, and a sum is to be specially appropriated for the establishment of a model grammar school in connexion with the normal school at Toronto. The grammar schools hold an intermediate place between the University and other collegiate institutions of the province, and the common school. The model grammar school will raise the standard of the instruction afforded by them, and impart to it a certain uniformity of character. When this object shall have been effected it will hardly be too much to affirm that educational facilities, unsurpassed by those provided in any part of the world, will have been placed within the reach of the youth of Upper Canada of all classes.

In regard to Lower Canada, Lord Elgin observes that:—

The position of the lower province in respect of education is not so satisfactory. Neither normal schools nor public school libraries have yet been established in that section of the country, although some preliminary steps have been taken towards the introduction of both. The commissioners of schools are still, in too many instances, uneducated, and the teachers indifferently qualified for their office; and there are parishes where, under one pretence or another, the local contribution for the support of schools is not levied. It is but fair to say, that in some districts of Lower Canada, far removed from the towns, and where the winters are very long and inclement, there is a good deal of poverty among the inhabitants. Nevertheless progress has been made of late years, and there are indications of further improvement. Soon after the introduction of common schools into Lower Canada, it was deemed necessary, partly because of the imperfect operation of the municipal system, and partly because of the unwillingness of the inhabitants to take such burdens voluntarily upon themselves; to make the school tax compulsory instead of leaving it, as in Upper Canada, optional with the municipalities to tax themselves, subject to the condition, that no school section should receive its share of the legislative grant which did not raise an equal amount from local sources. During the earlier years of my administration, acts of violence were from time to time committed by the opponents of the obnoxious impost. This species of resistance to the law has now ceased, and there appears to be among the population generally, a disposition to acquiesce in its provisions. The total number of educational institutions in Lower Canada has increased from 1,727 in 1847, to 2,352 in 1853, and the pupils from 68,133 in the former to 108,284 in the latter year. This last number includes 3,524 girls educated at 53 superior girls schools, and 2,786 educated at 44 convents, 4,023 pupils attending 83 independent schools, 1,169 attending 19 preparatory classical schools, and 2,110 students at 14 Roman Catholic colleges. The terms at these last mentioned institutions, for what purports to be an education of a higher order, are exceedingly moderate, the whole charge for a student, board and lodging included, being from 14*l.* to 18*l.* a year. They are able to afford education at this very low rate, partly because they are in general, to some extent endowed, and partly because their professors, being ecclesiastics, receive no remuneration beyond food and clothing for their services.

Lord Elgin's opinion of the exalted office of Governor General and its appropriate duties is so striking and characteristic that we append it to the foregoing, furnishing us, as it

does, with a key to his own active and warm interest in the progress of education among us:—

"Placed by his position above the strife of parties, holding office by a tenure less precarious than the ministers who surround him, having no political interest to serve but that of the community whose affairs he is appointed to administer, his opinion cannot fail, when all cause for suspicion and jealousy is removed, to have a great weight in the colonial councils, while he is at liberty to constitute himself in an especial manner the patron of those larger and higher interests—such interests, for example, as those of education, and of moral and material progress in all its branches, which, unlike the contests of party, unite instead of dividing the members of the body politic."

## A N A C T

TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOLS IN UPPER CANADA.

18 VICTORIA, CHAPTER —.

[Received Royal Assent, 30th May, 1855.]

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to amend the laws relating to separate schools in Upper Canada so far as they affect the Roman Catholic inhabitants thereof: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

I. The nineteenth section of "*the Upper Canada School Act of 1850*," and the fourth Section of "*the Upper Canada Supplementary School Act of 1853*," and all other provisions of the said acts or of any other act, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed so far only as they severally relate to the Roman Catholics of Upper Canada.

Sections of the School Acts of 1850, 1851 and 1853 relating to Roman Catholics repealed.

II. Any number of persons not less than five heads of families being freeholders or householders resident within any school section of any township or within any ward of any city or town, and being Roman Catholics, may convene a public meeting of persons desiring to establish a separate school for Roman Catholics in such school section or ward for the election of trustees for the management thereof.

Five heads of R. C. families may convene public meeting in school section or ward.

III. A majority of the persons present, not less than ten in number, being freeholders or householders, and being Roman Catholics, at any such meeting may elect three persons resident within such section to act as trustees for the management of such separate school, and any person, being a British subject, may be elected as such trustee whether he be a freeholder, or householder, or not.

Majority of ten Roman Catholics present may elect three British subjects as trustees of separate school.

IV. A notice addressed to the reeve, or to the chairman of the board of common school trustees, in the township, city or town in which such section is situate, may be given by all persons resident within such section being freeholders or householders, and being Roman Catholics, favourable to the establishment of such

Written notice to be given to proper officers by R. C. supporters of a separate school of their desire to establish such school.