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EDUCATION.

THE COLLEGES OF CANADA.

I.

The Laval University.

(Continued from our last.)

The stone building which was erected by Mgr. Laval, in 1678, although twice visited by fire, is still in existence; it forms the centre part of the plan which we publish this day, and runs between the college and the wing over which is written the word "*Séminaire*"; it is known under the name of the *Old Seminary*. Part of the college also dates from that period.

The corporation of the Seminary of Quebec was, at that time, very different from what it is now. The Seminary was entrusted with most of the rectories, and received the revenues of the same; but the rectors were, also, to be supported by the Seminary, and, when worn out and superannuated, they were entirely to be maintained at the expense of the institution. Several rectors or *curés* were far from coinciding in the views of the bishop in that respect, and some insisted on being permanently provided for. The King was appealed to, and a Royal Ordinance was promulgated, which gave rise to the question of the permanency of the rectors, or *inamovibilité des curés*, which, in our days, has been brought before the tribunals. (1)

(1) The following pamphlets may be consulted on that question.—"Notes sur l'inamovibilité des Curés dans le Bas-Canada," par L. H. Lafontaine, avocat, Montréal, 1837; "Mémoires sur l'amovibilité des

At present, and for a great many years back under the French *régime*, the priests of the Seminary have had nothing to do with the rectories, and even those in the parishes of the Côte de Beaupré, their seigniorly, are independent of them. They are strictly confined to education, and if they do minister in the city of Quebec, or elsewhere, it is altogether voluntary on their part. Some of them, it is true, preach frequently in the cathedral, and Mr. Demers, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Aubry have been most conspicuous in the Canadian pulpit. But, generally, they prefer giving the greater part of their time to their literary and scientific pursuits.

Although they derived, but during a very short time, any benefit from the rectories, their house has always been open to the *curés*, and is still a place of resort for most of them whenever they come into town. The clerical *retraites*, or days of seclusion, which are held from time to time, bring together, in the Seminary, large numbers of priests, and the urbanity, kindness and brotherly affection of its members for their *confrères* render such meetings both pleasant and beneficial. This state of things, combined with the fact that most political and influential persons, having received their education in that college, keep up a friendly intercourse with their former teachers, coupled also with the influence that is always created by the possession of large real estate, must have placed, particularly so, at an early date, in the hands of the Seminary a very great power over Canadian society. Yet, this power has always been known to have been wielded with the greatest prudence and moderation.

Whatever may be the discretion, and even secrecy, of any number of men so situated, it is very difficult that the prevailing political opinion or sympathy among them should not transpire, and have more or less sway in their imme-

Curés en Canada," by Mgr. Lartigue, first bishop of Montreal: Montreal, 1837; "Analyse et observations sur les droits relatifs aux Evêques de Québec et de Montréal, et du Clergé du Canada," par Charles Têtu (supposed to have been written by Mr. Nau), Montreal, 1842. The case was given by the Court against curé Nau.