

With "Rome, the nurse of judgment," it lay to decide for Catholics whether "the Laurier Settlement" is to be accepted, tolerated or rejected.

So much for a sketch of the facts. And now let us go over them in some detail, and be thus able to give a reason for the faith that is in us, taking note, as we pass, of some strange treatment given by the letter of the law to its spirit.

### I. *The Manitoba Act of 1870.*

This was passed by the Dominion of Canada Federal Parliament at Ottawa. By it, part of the Northwest Territory was made into the province of Manitoba. *The British North America Act of 1867* (providing that any province having separate schools before confederation shall have them for all time; also that any province not having them at the union, but conceding them at any time, shall concede them as a right which can never be taken away), *was made to apply to Manitoba*—except those parts of the act referring to other provinces specially; and except as the B. N. A. Act might be varied by the Manitoba Act.

*How did this affect education?*

The B. N. A. Act guarantees separate schools to those provinces that *by law* had separate schools at the time they entered the Dominion of Canada.

Hence Ontario (Upper Canada) and Quebec (Lower Canada) had guarantee of separate schools.

Hence New Brunswick, another entering province, had no guarantee. And the New Brunswick separate schools, existing *by custom or practice* only, were abolished.

[An "understanding," by which, in a few places, certain State schools have Catholic teachers, is all the Church in New Brunswick has kept. And for this compromise there is no protection by any existing law.]

The Manitoba Act had before it the law of Ontario and Quebec (protected by the B. N. A. Act) and the practice of New Brunswick (not thus protected); and *therefore* it enacted that no law should be passed by the Legislature of Manitoba which should "prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law *or practice* in the Province at the Union."

Those italicized words, *therefore*, and *by practice*, let all readers consider over again in their context, and bear in mind when reading what follows.

Now, if you are guaranteed separate schools, "by practice,"