

The excellent service which females can render as teachers, are not appreciated, on this account, by Canadians only. In the neighbouring States where a taste, a zeal for the education of the people is a national characteristic, where the means of education and sacrifices for its success are not wanting to secure the blessing of instruction to every resident child, females are employed as teachers during one half of the year; and the practice is generally the same in the District of St. Francis, which is principally inhabited by people of American extraction.

I have further to remark that numerous elementary girls' Schools are taught, under the control of the School Commissioners, by religious ladies (nuns) who, independently of such Schools, have also their boarding Schools in which girls receive in all respects a finished education—an education which is well appreciated by the Commissioners, even by those who are strangers in the country. There are few convents of religious ladies in Lower Canada and even in Montreal, which do not contain an elementary School, conducted under the auspices of the School Law.

Besides, in my last Report (the second paragraph page 9), I allude to Schools taught by females, and to the testimony which the School Inspectors give in their favour. It is a great mistake therefore to conclude at this time, and from the Report above cited, that we have no more than 472 qualified teachers (speaking generically) for 1991 Schools, the number being considerably increased since 1851 in consequence of the law being made to work in the Municipalities indicated in the subjoined Table.

I submit these facts for the consideration of His Excellency, for that of the two branches of the Legislature, and of yourself personally. The details which I have just laid before you are a triumphant confutation of the false assertions and the unjust conclusions, as unjust as they are injurious to the country, which certain people delight in promulgating for reasons best known to themselves.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. B. MEILLEUR,
S. E.
