

It flies our shores between,
Word follows word at magic space,
Sweet, gentle words in kindly race,
Accents of love and female grace—
The grace of Britain's queen.

Victoria! when history's page
Hereafter tells of you,
'Twill say,—That once a monarch sage,
A woman good and true,
In name of those who owned her sway,
A people richly blest,
First spoke across the great highway
To brethren in the West

Brit.—Listen again—upon the ground
The cable strangely creaking,
Hearing across the lofty sound
Of a great people speaking;
Republicans of western mould,
Strong nervous hearts of bearing bold,
Columbia young to Albion old
Sends words of kindly greeting.

A.A.—Glad tidings of great actions done
Beneath the east and western sun
Shall every day go forth.

Brit.—And kindness 'twixt us shall increase,
True love abound and discord cease,
And never may this chain of peace
Be messenger of wrath.

If blundering diplomatic skill
In stilted phrases even still
Should try to cross our walk,
To stir up strife 'twixt your race,
Like honest folks who disagree,
We'll take our places by the sea
And sit us down and alk.

Am.—As gentle words 'twixt you and me
Are passing every minute,
Whatever the cause of discord be,
There'll soon be nothing in it;
And may we both in friendship joined,
Be first at Freedom's goal,
And joined thus, be ever thus, (embracing)
A united soul to soul.

Report of the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada for 1886.

(Continued from our last.)

Mr. Bourgeois has the superintendence of a most flourishing and interesting portion of the Eastern Townships known among our *habitants* by the name of *Bois Francs*, comprising a portion of the counties of Drummond, Bagot and Arthabaska. The population of this district is chiefly composed of emigrants, principally of French origin, who have left the southern parishes of the district of Three-Rivers and the western part of the district of Quebec, to seek a new home in the eastern townships. The new settlers make great sacrifices for the education of their children, well worthy to be followed by the inhabitants of the older parishes which they have left.

Mr. Bourgeois expresses himself in the following terms:

There has not been during this year the same increase in the number of schools in operation nor in the number of children attending the same, as was noticed last year; but this is owing to the fact that the increase of late years, has nearly reached the point that could be expected. As to the number of schools it is sufficient for the school population; it would not have been therefore advisable to encourage a more rapid increase in their numbers for the present. Some isolated spots have remained deprived of the benefits of the school-law, but their position alone has been the cause, and it is one which can only be remedied by time, and increased settlement.

According to the statistics which accompany the present report, you will perhaps be surprised to find how few are the pupils noted as well advanced in the various branches of education, compared with the number that attended school. It is a remarkable fact, and one which is nevertheless very easily explained. In this part of the Province, settled so lately, and where manual labor alone supplies family wants, the child that has attained the age in which the reasoning faculties can best be exercised, is also at that age capable of contributing some assistance in the labor of the field, therefore, he is kept at home, while the infant is sent to school.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of 75 volumes which you placed at my disposal for distribution in the schools of my district, but as I had almost completed my inspection, a few only have been bestowed, and this was in the Municipalities that I had not yet visited. In doing so, I particularly appointed the reward, to such scholars as were remarkable for their success in the more useful branches of study, such as arithmetic, grammar, &c., added to the master's report upon the general conduct of the scholar, and his regular attendance at school. I have promised prizes to the schools in my next visit, and will faithfully, as heretofore attend to the instructions which you were so kind as to give me respecting them.

A notable and favorable change has taken place during the present year as regards the finances of several corporations, the result I presume of the condition which you imposed upon the obtaining a supplementary grant from Government; that no corporation having arrears due by solvent parties, should be entitled to such aid. In co-operation with your views, I invariably ascertained these facts before I would consent to a certificate for any corporation.

The difficulties that heretofore existed towards the carrying out of the school-law have almost entirely disappeared within the limits of my district of inspection. Those that do exist are altogether of a local, or territorial nature. I will therefore point them out in their proper places, together with the remedy which in my opinion ought to be applied.

I am happy to declare that of all the schools under my inspection, those of this Municipality are the best attended, and exhibit better proofs of improvement for the year 1886 than any other in my district. I feel most happy in having it in my power to pay this tribute of praise to this parish particularly as it marks a great change from what was formerly. The commissioners over whom is the Rev. Curate of the parish, deserve the highest commendation, for their enlightened direction over the schools, during the last year. The new Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. O. Bellemare, is a well educated man, and fills the duties of his office in a most praise-worthy manner.

In recapitulation I have to observe that the schools of my district are in general, pretty well provided with benches and desks, but some of them are yet in want of black-boards and not one is furnished with maps. A few of the Corporations, propose procuring these essential articles; so far the want of means was the chief obstacle in that respect.

The attendance at school has been very irregular throughout the whole of my district, which is due to several causes, the principal being the poverty of parents, who are unable to properly clothe their children, particularly in the winter season, and the necessity in some cases of their giving what help they can at home.

Though the salaries named are on an almost equal part with those offered in the neighbouring districts, yet teachers are to be had with such difficulty, that the authorities have been content to retain those they had, such as they were, rather than dispense with them altogether; for my part I found many of them totally unqualified for their posts. The fulfilment of the 6th clause of Act 19, Vic., chap. 14, will have the effect of greatly reducing the number of schools for the present, which will enable those who desire to continue their vocation of teachers to return to their studies and fit themselves properly under good masters, before they undertake to teach others.

Mr. Inspector Archambault, who is entrusted with the educational charge of the rich and enterprising counties of Richelieu, Veillon and Chambly, with part of those of St. Jean and St. Hyacinthe, has not met within his district with the many difficulties generally encountered in the endeavor to further education in the new districts of this province. His report, of which the following is a synopsis, is most encouraging:

After a careful visit throughout my district I remain convinced that there has been a remarkable progress in every quarter. The