

of the Council in reference to Normal and Common Schools, Boards of Examiners, school books, charges against teachers, &c. We are somewhat curious to know why no steps have been taken toward the constitution of the Council thus carefully provided for by law.

It is beyond doubt, that the desire of education is rapidly on the increase among the French Canadians. Their growing willingness to pay school-fees is a sure proof of this. Still, the remuneration given to teachers in many parts of the country is a mere wretched pittance; indeed, in some remote parishes, so low as to be almost laughable. For example, we are informed the Official Inspector that at St. Alexandre the teachers' salaries vary from by £10 to £27; at St. Fabien, £10 to £12; and at Mont Carmel, a teacher whom the Inspector praises is found to enjoy an annual allowance of £8! One of the results of this parsimonious system is, that a vast number of the elementary schools are committed to young inexperienced girls; while no provision is made for the furnishing of these schools with proper books and apparatus. There is no uniformity in the choice of school-books; and there is in general no thorough training of the pupils even in such books as they have. All that we have witnessed and heard of the elementary education throughout Canada East leads us to think it very defective in those very elements with which it professes to be occupied, as reading, spelling, grammar, arithmetic and geography. Indeed this remark applies with too much truth to schools of more pretension than those called elementary. The art of distinct, correct, and well accented reading seems to be very insufficiently taught; and the *spouting* of a few orations or poems, at the annual examinations, we regard as a very poor substitute for the art and habit of good reading by the scholars at large.

Such "superior education" as exists in Canada East is found in connection with the McGill University at Montreal, and the Laval University at Quebec. Besides these there are numerous Colleges, chiefly conducted by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, and divided by the Superintendent into two classes: the Classical, and the Commercial Colleges. With these are also grouped the *academies*, corresponding to the grammar schools of Canada West. The "*academies for girls*" are generally conventual schools.

The Inspectors of Schools are loud in praise of the Curés in the rural parishes, and the Religious Orders, whose educational zeal has become a conspicuous fact within the last ten years. The education of the Roman Catholic youth is more and more engrossed by ecclesiastical persons, male and female. Here we find the Jesuits—there the Brothers of Christian Doctrine—here the clerks of St. Viateur—there the Brothers of St. Joseph—here the Sisters of La Providence—there the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame—here those of Jesus-Marie—and there again those of Ste. Croix. To facilitate the employment of the members of these orders or communities, the law expressly, and as we think very improperly, exempts them from the examinations to which all other teachers receiving the public money are obliged to submit.

The books read in schools are generally taken from a collection published by the "Brothers of the Christian Doctrine." A little volume entitled the *Devoir du Chrétien* is a great favorite. It is reported as read in 1442 schools; while the alphabet and spelling-book are only used in 1253. The catechism of the Church of Rome is taught in 974 schools, the Psalms of David in Latin in 936 schools; while the Bible or the New Testament is read in no more than 506, and these situated in the Protestant districts, or dissentient schools scattered over the French Parishes.

The whole number of educational institutions in Canada East is given as 2019 in the year 1856, an increase of 50 on the previous year. The pupils are returned as 142,141 in the year 1856; in 1855, they numbered 127,058. The Superintendent estimates that there remain "153,819 children between the ages