

7. There is one subject affecting the interests of the higher Education, which, not unnaturally, seems to have been overlooked by our politicians. I refer to the legal value attached to University degrees, as qualifying for the learned professions. This, on the terms of the published agreement, will be left to the local governments. Such a course would lead to great evils. It would tend to the erection of different standards in different Provinces, and to give to the degrees of our Universities a merely local value. The degrees of all the existing Universities should be degrees for all British America. The standard of professional education in the different provinces should as far as possible be assimilated, and raised sufficiently high to prevent the interference of uneducated practitioners; and, if possible, to secure for our degrees that recognition in Great Britain which the separate provinces have as yet been unable to obtain. In order to these ends the general government should assume the supervision of this matter, or should at least retain the power to revise all local legislation in regard to it. Perhaps the best method to secure the desired result, would be the appointment of an Educational Council similar to the Medical Council in Great Britain, and to charge this body with the oversight of all matters relating to professional education and the value of degrees therein.

I have now stated what I conceive to be the most important points which demand the attention of Protestant educationists in Lower Canada, in prospect of our new constitution. Others may occur to other thinkers, and some of those which I have mentioned may not seem equally important to all. The details of the mode in which these guarantees may be best secured belong to the politician. My present object will have been attained if I have succeeded in stimulating thought on these momentous questions, and in contributing somewhat to a solution which, while not injurious to our countrymen who differ from us on educational questions, will secure and perpetuate the existence of English and Protestant education in Lower Canada.

I would say finally, that in my judgment, no people was ever under greater necessity to make education, both higher and elementary, a prominent object of attention, than that of British America, in entering on the new constitution proposed to us. On this, under God, will depend our progress and prosperity, and the consideration we shall enjoy. While in our federation there will be discordant inter-

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