

SECTION 6.—*The Constitution and Government of the Schools in respect to Religious Instruction.*

1. As Christianity is the basis of our whole system of Elementary Education, that principle should pervade it throughout. Where it cannot be carried out in mixed Schools to the satisfaction of both Roman Catholics and Protestants, the Law provides for the establishment of separate schools. And the Common School Act, securing individual liberty, as well as recognizing Christianity, provides, "That in any Model or Common School established under this Act, no child shall be required to read or study in or from any religious book, or to join in any exercise of devotion or religion which shall be objected to by his or her parents or guardians." With this limitation, the peculiar religious exercises of each School must be a matter of understanding between the Teacher and his employers. This must be the case in regard both to separate and mixed Schools.

2. In Schools which are composed both of Roman Catholic and Protestant Children, the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland have made the following regulations which are worthy of imitation wherever desired and practicable in Canada :— "One day in each week, or part of a day, (independently of Sunday,) is to be set apart for the religious instruction of the children, on which day such pastors or other persons as are approved of by the parents and guardians of the children, shall have access to them for that purpose." The Managers of Schools are also expected to afford convenient opportunity and facility for the same purpose on other days of the week. But where any course of religious instruction is pursued in a School during School hours, to which the parents of any of the children attending it object, the Managers are to make an arrangement for having it given to those who are to receive it at a stated time or times, and in a separate place ; so that no children, whose parents or guardians object to their being so, shall be present at it." The Commissioners of National Education in England also observe in their Second Report, that—"In the National Schools the importance of religion is constantly impressed upon the minds of the children, through the works calculated to promote good principles and fill the heart with love for religion, but which are so compiled as not to clash with the doctrines of any particular class of Christians. The children are thus prepared for those more strict religious exercises, which it is the peculiar province of the ministers of religion to superintend or direct, and for which stated times are set apart in each School, so that each class of Christians may thus receive separately, such religious in-