

have the scribblings on the walls of these poor little fellows, who were the playthings of the monarchs, and we can read there stories of their pleasures and their cares, how they studied, how they loved each other, and how they thought of their distant homes.—G. Z. G.

5. IRISH CATHOLICS AND EDUCATION IN CANADA.

The following letter has been addressed by Rev. Father Stafford, of Lindsay, to Mr. Shiel, Government Emigrant Agent to Ireland :
LINDSAY, Ontario, January 8th, 1874.

MY DEAR MR. SHIEL.—I read with pleasure the report of your speech at the meeting of the Irish Agricultural Labourer's Union in Cork, on the 14th December last, in which you dwelt on the superior advantages of our school system and the civil and religious liberty that prevails so happily in this country. There may possibly be difference of opinion as to the practical existence of civil and religious liberty in certain parts of the United States. Theoretically and on paper, of course, it is perfect; but as to the other question—that of freedom of education, no one pretends that anything of the kind is to be found there. No provision is made in any law in the United States for the existence of a single Catholic school. Under pretence of excluding everything, sectarian or denominational from their schools, everything Catholic is excluded. A man with one eye can see what kind of a school it is in which nothing Catholic is to be found. If it is not purely Pagan, it is, and must be purely Protestant. Practically the schools in the States are Protestant and Protestantizing, and the Catholic landowner, and householder, and tax-payer has to support those schools equally with his Protestant neighbour. After having done this, after having contributed equally with his Protestant neighbour to the support of the schools of the richer majority, he then has the liberty of providing a Catholic education for his own children. How would the people of Ireland like that? Very much I presume, as they liked the privilege formerly enjoyed of supporting two classes of clergymen. In Canada nothing of this kind is to be found. Both in theory and in practice we have the education of our own children in our hands. We are, in this respect, on a footing of perfect equality with our Protestant fellow-citizens. The Protestants of Canada are more numerous and more wealthy than we are, and to their credit and honour be it told and published, they would scorn to impose their schools on us; they have too much respect for true liberty of conscience; and further, they would scorn to take our money to educate their children; they have too keen a sense of the principles of justice, honesty, and British fair play.

On the question then, of education, there is no room for doubt or argument. While we enjoy our present rights we can well afford to let others talk of "civil and religious liberty," knowing, as we do, that "civil and religious liberty" is a myth, and can have no foundation—it is a farce, a humbug, a delusion, a fraud and a snare—in any country in which true freedom of education does not exist. What is now being done violently in Prussia and other persecuting countries under one tyrant has been done all along by a tyrant majority in the United States. I thank you for the report you sent me of His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto's speech, in which these facts are proclaimed. Please continue to place this question on the sure foundation of the truth. In the end it will tell.

Yours truly,
M. STAFFORD, P.P.

6. THE NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL LAW.

The following correspondence between Lord Dufferin and the Imperial authorities, relative to the New Brunswick School Law, has been published. It will be seen that Lord Kimberley, after taking the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown, declares that these school acts are within the powers of the local legislature, and may not therefore be disallowed.

OTTAWA, Canada, May, 27th 1873.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley :

MY LORD.—I have the honour to enclose copy of resolution carried in the House of Commons, on the 14th of May, by a majority of 35 against the Government, urging the disallowance by the Governor-General of certain Acts passed by the New Brunswick Legislature, with a view of legalizing a series of assessments made under the Common School Act of 1871, and in amendment of that Act.

2. I also beg to enclose copies of the Acts referred to, and I further forward for your Lordship's information the substance of the announcement made to the House of Commons, on my behalf, by

Sir John Macdonald, in reference to the above mentioned resolution.

3. From these documents your Lordship will perceive that the majority of the House of Commons being strongly opposed to the severity with which the secular system of education established under the Common School Act of 1871, is being applied in New Brunswick, and of which the Roman Catholic population vehemently complain, have endeavoured to paralyze the Act by an indirect attack upon the subsidiary machinery necessary to its operation, and that they have sought to obtain this end through a resolution of the House of Commons, in favour of the disallowance by the Crown of certain Assessment Acts, passed by the Local Legislature for the material maintenance of the common schools.

4. I have already been instructed by your lordship in your despatches noted in the margin, that in the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, the New Brunswick School Act of 1871, was within the competence of the Provincial Legislature, and I am further advised by the Hon. the Minister of Justice that the present Acts are equally within its competence.

5. Under these circumstances Sir John Macdonald has announced to the House of Commons that I am not at present prepared to comply with the terms of the resolution which had been passed in favour of the disallowance of these Acts; but that it is my intention to submit the circumstances of the case for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and to await your further instructions.

6. In taking this step, I have followed the course which has been recommended to me by my responsible advisers.

7. I have further to inform your Lordship that Parliament has voted, at the instance of my Government, a considerable sum of money for the purpose of defraying the legal expenses of those who propose raising the question of the legality of the provisions of the New Brunswick School Act before the judicial committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

8. I have also the honour to subjoin a copy of a remonstrance which has been addressed to me by a delegation from the Government of New Brunswick, consisting of the Chief of the Executive Council and some of his colleagues, against the interference of the Dominion Parliament with the constitutional action of the Provincial Legislature.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,) DUFFERIN.

Downing Street, 30th June, 1873.

The Earl of Kimberley to the Earl of Dufferin :—

MY LORD.—I referred to the law officers of the Crown your Lordship's despatch, with the enclosures, of the 27th May last, No. 137, in which you requested instructions as to the course which you should take with regard to the resolution of the Canadian House of Commons, urging the disallowance of certain Acts passed by the New Brunswick Legislature with the view of legalizing a series of assessments made under the Common Schools Acts of 1871, and in amendment of that Act.

2. I am advised, 1st, that these Acts of the New Brunswick Legislature are, like the Acts of 1871, within the powers of that Legislature. 2nd. That the Canadian House of Commons cannot constitutionally interfere with their operation by passing a resolution such as that of 14th of May last. If such a resolution were allowed to have effect, it would amount to a virtual repeal of the section of the British North America Act of 1867, which gives the exclusive right of legislation in these matters to the Provincial Legislatures. 3rd. That this is a matter in which you must act on your own individual discretion, and in which you cannot be guided by the advice of your responsible ministers of the Dominion. And 4th. That these Acts of the New Brunswick Legislature being merely acts for better carrying out the Act of 1871, and for getting rid of technical objections to the assessments thereunder, it would be in accordance with the Imperial Act, and with the general spirit of the Constitution of the Dominion, as established by that Act, for you to allow these Acts to remain in force.

I have &c.,
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

7. A CANADIAN MILITARY COLLEGE.

The Minister of Militia has given notice in the House of Commons, that he will move the House into Committee of the Whole to consider resolutions, having for their object the establishment of a Military College, for the training of Canadian officers. The scheme, as indicated in the resolutions, is to establish in one of the garrison towns of Canada, a military college for the education of young men in those branches of military and general scientific knowledge,