

"the pull" with the cousin of incompetency as a candidate, and the counting of heads tries to hush its voice. We are sometimes even so far misguided as to use the negative that decries, and, when the door is safely shut against strangers, we not unfrequently belittle one another's enterprises to our heart's content. Of course we know that you never do anything of that kind on your side of the line, nor even the people of Ontario on their side of the line, as my friend the Hon. Dr. Ross may inform us. Indeed, as we are often told by those who, like the Bishop of Leicester, have no particular desire to reach a "better place," having the best of places already, we ought to feel ashamed of ourselves in being so restless, in being almost as unwise as were the people of Manitoba before events had matured themselves. But this is only when we are among ourselves. We do not admit strangers to these wicked *seances*. We would all feel very unhappy if anyone were to break in on these family pleasantries of ours. Like the Highlanders of Drumtochty we are all of the best of clay when our own minister has the making of us. Indeed, we would deem it the height of treason to speak disparagingly of ourselves before others; and therefore in full view of the respectable educational forces that are apt to plume themselves when focussing in such an assembly as this, I feel it to be my duty to put as good a face on our educational affairs as can be done within the lines of truth, and tell you what we desire and expect to be in our endeavors to be other than we are.

The people of Quebec, I may as well tell you, have a show of their own, an educational record of which we need not be ashamed, although, from what the newspapers have lately been saying about us, we are all pretty well convinced that it ought

hardly to take rank as "the greatest show on earth," and I may also as well tell you that the school system of the Province of Quebec is one of the best systems in the world, in theory at least. And though in practice there may be about it too much of the peradventure perhaps in these latter days, it still has within it quickening elements that could be made to do the most for a community constituted as ours is. One of the first principles of responsible government is that the people must have what the people demand, and if there be anything amiss about our educational system, there has at least been no breaking away from this first principle. The people have been having what the people desired, perhaps I should say what the people have tolerated, and if there has been a policy of *laissez faire* fostered here and there, as the tribunes of the people have lately been proclaiming, the primary cause of such is not far to seek when the open daylight condition of some of our schools is taken into consideration. The people have been having what the people have tolerated, and we all know that every decade of these times, when the *via media* safeguards, mediocrity, does not always produce a prophet eager to sacrifice himself among the dry bones in the valley of go-as-you-please. At one time, it seemed as if self-sacrifice was to be our watchword, but when it came to be illustrated only in the poor teacher's experience with her "much less than a hundred dollars a year," it became too much of a one-sided anomaly to be perpetuated.

But this phrase "much less" has happily been changed to "not less than a hundred dollars a year," and in the change there is some measure of progress, if not the prospect of further improvement. Through the late dictum of the Council of Public