

LETTER IV.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,—The amendment to the Act proposed in page 80, of the Superintendent's Report, will evidently give the Commissioners too much power in reference to interference with the Municipal valuation roll, by enabling them, in fact, to fix whatever valuation they please upon property, besides incidentally bringing them into constant, and probably vexatious conflict with the Municipal Corporations.

It is matter of surprise, that the inhabitants of Montreal and Quebec should ever have allowed the fortiet section to pass the Legislature without the most strenuous resistance, but still more, that they should have offered none whatever, and can only be accounted for by that strange infatuation which sometimes makes men's thoughts to "lose the name of action" under the impression that "every one's business is no one's," inasmuch as it imposes upon them also a capitation tax, which, where families of children are large, would amount to £4 or £5 per eight months in the year, equal to the charge by independent teachers in the city for the complete education of one child for one complete year; a tax, which, in addition to the present expense of education, would be wholly insupportable by many families, and would lead to all the deplorable consequences experienced in the United States, by families being compelled to place their children in company with the rough, rude, and licentious of every description. The power to enforce this clause would at once take away the means of support from those independent and properly qualified teachers, in whom the public have confidence, and cause them to remove from the city, which would leave the parents of children in those cities no other alternative but to send them to the very questionably managed Municipal Schools it would establish, or to the High School, whose charges they could not afford. The framers of the Act evidently expected more than they were able