

opportunity—the act will not in effect exist to allow of such a slip being retraced. This clause would make of the Bill a permissive instead of a compulsory measure, and throw upon the different localities the onus of rejecting or accepting separate schools. It would make it impossible to assert that the Dominion Government is trying to “relieve” the minority when the minority does not wish to be relieved. Mr. Laurier’s Royal Commission to enquire into the facts would not be needed.

It Blocks the  
Way.

Each day makes this wretched Separate School business more and more intolerable. The country is groaning under the burden of it. Its malevolent effects are seen in every direction—effects ludicrously out of proportion to their cause. The minds and energies of men on whom depend to a large extent the progress of the country are absorbed and even enslaved by this nation-stultifying question. It blocks the way. It is as great a curse to Canada as Irish Home Rule has been to Great Britain. In considering the question, our politicians, with one or two exceptions, think only of the interests of the party to which they belong. That the country is at a standstill is nothing to them so long as the opposing party gains no advantage. The affectation of respect for the Constitution, for the “rights” of the minority, or the affectation of ignorance of the question and the desire for further light on it—how miserable it all is, how obviously the result of interested motives. And each party gravely accuses the other of being responsible for bringing the question into the Federal arena and keeping it there so long!

Another  
Warning.

The bye-election in Charlevoix County on Monday last resulted in the victory of the Liberal candidate, Mr. Angers, by a majority of nearly two hundred. As the total vote polled was not quite five hundred it will be seen that very few of the electors supported the Government candidate, Mr. Cimon, notwithstanding the telegrams of Bishop Labrecque to all the Roman Clergy in the County instructing them to insist upon their flocks voting for the candidate “who has pledged himself to a remedial bill which shall have been approved previously by ecclesiastical authority.” The Liberals of Quebec City have commented very severely upon this interference on the part of the Bishop. They say that this is the beginning of the fight of the Clergy of the Province against the Liberal party, and that they know “where all this comes from.” So far as we can judge the Liberals have every reason to welcome the interference of the Roman Clergy on behalf of their opponents. The people are evidently disposed to resent dictation in political affairs and to vote according to their own desires and not those of the priests. This election, then, is not only another and most impressive warning to the Government to consider carefully their Remedial Bill and their collective and individual reputation, but it is also a further warning to the Bishops and Clergy of the Roman Catholic Church that the laity do not approve of being instructed how to vote and that if the tutelage is continued it will end in the invariable defeat of the candidate on whose behalf the priests interfere.

The Church in  
France.

It is stated that the Government of France has decided to re-call M. de Behaine, the French Ambassador to the Vatican, because of his too great friendliness towards the Pope. The Premier, M. Bourgeois, appears really to be in earnest regarding his promised “drastic measures” against the Roman Catholic Church in France, and is about to introduce a bill to regulate associations as a prelude to the separation

of Church and State. This bill, it is said, will guarantee, in the first place, complete liberty of association, which has been denied since the days of Gambetta, but it will strictly define the position of prominent associations possessing real estate, and will compel all such organizations to prove their “public utility.” Many humanitarian societies, such as the Society of Saving Human Life, the societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, to Animals, etc., are recognized by the Government as being of public utility. Several religious orders already enjoy such recognition, among others, the Jesuits, the Dominicans, and the Little Sisters of the Poor. But besides these well-known societies there are thousands of religious associations possessing enormous wealth in stocks, vineyards, estates, and buildings, whose public utility, it is claimed, is not evident. These associations will be required, by the forthcoming bill, to furnish proofs of their public utility, as well as detailed statements of their wealth and the use to which it is put. If proof of public utility is not furnished, the associations may be dissolved and their property confiscated. This bill is likely to meet with approval in the Chamber of Deputies but the clerical party is strong in the Senate, and it is here that the battle will be long and fierce. The rejection of the bill would probably cause the dissolution of Parliament and an appeal to the country on this issue. Canadians will watch with interest the progress and fate of this notable measure.

The Italians in  
Africa.

The Italian policy of colonial expansion in North-East Africa is rather a strain on the Government. The moderate success achieved near Antaio by General Baratieri was followed one or two months ago by a serious reverse at the hands of Ras Mangascia, one of the lieutenants of King Menelik. It was reported at the time that this defeat caused the loss of several officers and of nearly nine hundred native troops. Fear was then expressed that its moral effect upon both Abyssian and Mahomedan natives might be such as to make the Italian position at Kassala, and even near the coast, one of grave difficulty. These “unpleasant” incidents, however, are inseparable from the occupation of semi-barbarous dependencies, and they seldom lead to ulterior consequences of a serious and enduring kind. But in the meantime the Italian forces are in serious trouble. The garrison at Makelle have been reduced to a glass of wine and water once a day. Communication with the beleaguered town is stated to be almost impossible. The Shoans have redoubled their vigilance to prevent the Italians from sending out any message. The investing tribes are patiently awaiting the failure of the water supply of Makelle which they think will compel the surrender of the garrison. It is to be hoped that the gallant commander, Colonel Galliano, and his followers have a better fate in store for them than surrendering themselves.

Upper Canada  
College.

The central need of this country is the means of broadening the views of her sons by educating them with a view to the elevation of public life of Canada and making each child realize the privileges he is born to by being a citizen of the great British Empire. For nearly three-quarters of a century Upper Canada College has nobly done its duty, and to-day is the one great national primary school which stands out as the alma mater of thousands who have given good earnest of her teachings on these lines. In the College halls assemble the flower of the intellectual youth of the country without regard to class or creed, with the example of those who preceded them and the teaching of those who are over them to direct their minds to the central idea of the merits of the Empire and