

will equally appear that the Archbishop mistook the bearing of the Governor-General's proclamation of the 6th of December, 1869, and applied it to the case of Scott, without distinct consultation with the Government. That he had some misgiving about the correctness of his own interpretation is evinced from a passage in his letter of June 9, 1870, in which he says: "Should my views, unfortunately, have deviated from the real tendency of the Government, I humbly beg that my promise will be considered as sacred." We notice that already partisan papers are torturing the evidence to suit their own purposes; but we believe that if the present Government has no better ground for the amnesty than that furnished by this report, it will only make a laughing-stock of itself by moving in that direction.

### THE ONTARIO SCHOOL ELECTION.

The return of the scrutineers appointed to examine the votes in the election of the representatives in the Ontario Council of Public Instruction has finally been published. The result of the election cannot fail to meet the approval of every right-thinking man. For some time past the Province has been in a state of ferment over a scandal attaching to one of the candidates, whose fair fame and reputation have thereby been grievously affected; and the whole country has been looking forward with the greatest eagerness to the verdict of the teachers of Ontario in this matter. We sincerely congratulate the Province on the result. Three men of blameless morals, lofty integrity, wide experience, and large capacities, have been returned to represent the educational profession in the council. Of the two first it is hardly necessary to speak. Mr. Wood, the representative of the Inspectors, is well known as an authority and an earnest labourer in the field of education, in which he has a large and well utilized experience. He is thoroughly acquainted with the practical working of the educational institutions, and has himself had no small share in the framing of the laws bearing on education in Ontario. A better man than Prof. Wilson, who represents the High School Teachers, could hardly have been found for the position. As a scholar of high attainments, a profound thinker, and an honest Christian, he has long enjoyed the esteem of those who are acquainted with him. Both his character and his acquirements point him out as the right man in the right place.

The candidature of Prof. Goldwin Smith in opposition to Dr. Sangster has been the cause of one of the liveliest, but by no means most pleasing sensations that have occurred for some years past in the Province. It would be needless to recount the history of what is known as the "Sangster Scandal." It is not a subject that one cares to handle; and moreover, as the *Globe*, with a touch of grim humour, puts it, "our readers are familiar with the details." Under the circumstances the return of Dr. Sangster was impossible. It would have been little better than an insult to the common sense and moral feeling of the teachers of Ontario to suppose otherwise. Dr. Sangster may not be as black as he has been painted. But enough has been shown to be true, enough of the charge against him has been left absolutely uncontradicted, to demonstrate exclusively that he was not the man for the place he sought. The occupants of a position of such responsibility as clothes the members of the provincial Council of Public Instruction should be absolutely beyond suspicion. Again, if the charges against Dr. Sangster were untrue, why did he not use the privilege enjoyed by the poorest as well as the richest man in the country, of submitting them to a crucial test in the law courts? Instead of this he contented himself with a mere denial, the result being, as he surely might have foreseen, that the controversy waxed hotter and hotter. His name appeared, in no favourable connection, in almost every journal in the Province, and his case became the universal subject of village gossip. The very children, for whose educational welfare he proposed to provide, became familiar with the accusation brought against him, and doubtless wondered to themselves what the world was coming to if a man lying under such grave charges could be placed in high places to superintend their instruction. Under such circumstances the vote of the Public School teachers will give the utmost satisfaction, and, it is only matter of regret that so large a number of votes remained unpolled. Out of 5000 only 2,947 were recorded, Prof. Goldwin Smith being elected by a majority of 277.

Although the election was professedly conducted on a non-political basis, it seems to have been accompanied by an amount of "engineering" of the finest quality, that would not have disgraced the hardest-fought party contest. As usual, complaints are made on both sides, and the journals indulge in the customary flow of recrimination which seems to be inseparable from newspaper

discussion in this country. It is very evident, from the large number of votes unpolled, that improper pressure has been brought to bear from some quarter. Several Conservative organs insist that the unwillingness of a number of teachers to record their votes in favour of Dr. Sangster was due to the threats that a list of those voting for this candidate would be made public. This strikes one as a poor argument. A teacher who honestly believed that Dr. Sangster was the best man for the place, would hardly be ashamed or afraid to let it be known that such was his opinion. It seems far more likely that the influence of the Educational Department was brought to work, and that "patronage" was the powerful gag employed to stop the mouths of the three thousand and odd teachers who were voiceless in the election. It certainly would appear that during his canvass Dr. Sangster did not disdain to employ this useful instrument. Fortunately he is not in a position to carry out his promises.

### THE CAUSES OF THE N. W. REBELLION.

Perhaps it is not too much to say that only one person in a thousand understands the true nature of the circumstances which led to the uprising of the Metis in 1869-70. This general ignorance is owing partially to indifference to the fate of the distant Province of Manitoba and partially to the highly-coloured and contradictory accounts which were given in the name of interested parties when the passions excited by the revolt were at their height. Now, however, that time and altered circumstances have restored a comparative calm, we are enabled to reach the causes of that unfortunate insurrection which has been fruitful in baneful results, far out of proportion to its magnitude or to the character of the persons who figured in it. In the report of the North West Parliamentary Committee, just published, we find the evidence of such men as Archbishop Taché, Abbé Ritchot, Messrs. Bannatyne, Bown, Bunn, Hargrave, Spence, Sutherland, Drs. Lynch and Cowan, all of whom are well acquainted with the Red River Country and were eye-witnesses of the principal facts connected with the rise and progress of the insurrection. Their testimony, from its singular concurrence, is invested with a certain historical importance and, on that account, deserves to be transplanted from the recesses of the Blue Book, into the popular sphere of current literature. The causes of the revolt of the Metis, as set down by these gentlemen, were threefold. The first was the discontent of the people that no notice whatever was given them of the transactions carried on between the Imperial Government, the Hudson's Bay Company and the Government of Canada, with reference to the transfer of the North West territory to the Dominion. Their feeling was that they were being sold by the Hudson's Bay Company and bought by the Government of Canada, without being in the least consulted. The grievance was chiefly apparent among the French Half Breeds, but it was shared, though in a less degree, by the English and Scotch Half-Breeds. The second cause of discontent was the arrival of surveying parties in 1868-69. The intention of the Canadian Government prior to taking possession was to survey all the lands occupied and to give the parties in possession of lands Crown Deeds free, and steps were also to be taken almost immediately to extinguish the Indian title to the lands upon equitable terms. The French half-breeds were dissatisfied at this step, under the foolish idea that the Canadian Government intended to deprive them of their lands. Notwithstanding that influential persons endeavoured to disabuse them and prove that the surveys were really in their favour, they forcibly prevented first Mr. Snow and afterwards, Col. Dennis, from continuing the work. The third cause of trouble, extending over some years previous to the outbreak, was the existence of a party in the Province of Assiniboia, which took the name of the "Canadian party." When it is stated that a leading member of this party was Dr. Schultz, and that its organ was the "Nor' Wester" newspaper, it will be understood that, whoever was primarily to blame, it fostered a bad feeling, one antagonistic to Canada and to union therewith, among the French Half Breeds. All these sources of discontent, however, singly or combined led to no concerted action and to no organized hostility, until the appearance of Lieut. Governor McDougall at Pembina, in the winter of 1869-70. Then, suddenly, armed men went forth to warn him off the territory, and Fort Garry was seized upon by a detachment under Riel. It seems clear from the evidence that the Canadian Government blundered in sending Mr. McDougall, as Provisional Governor, before the transfer of the Red River Territory was formally made by the Crown to the Dominion, before the Manitoba Act was passed and before the Province was regularly incorporated into the Confederation. Archbishop Taché, who was thoroughly aware of the state

of excited feeling in the Territory, had on his way to Rome, stopped at Ottawa purposely to warn the Government and among the recommendations he made was one to the effect that, pending the transfer, the provisional administration should be entrusted to the experienced hands of Governor MacTavish, who would have quietly prepared everything for the peaceable incoming of the new regime. In the light of subsequent events, it looks as if this was statesmanly advice. Had it been followed, the costly expedition of Col. Wolseley might have proved unnecessary and Governor Archibald might have begun his administration under other than military auspices, the consequences of which are felt in Manitoba to the present day.

### THE MILLENIUM IN ICELAND.

Up in Polar Iceland a national celebration has just taken place, which cannot but prove interesting to all those who have read the adventures of the Sea Kings, the travels and discoveries of the Norsemen, and the weird romantic literature of the Scandinavians. On the first of this month was inaugurated a series of festivals commemorative of the millennial anniversary of the entrance of Iceland among the nations of the earth. Towards the end of the ninth century the Carolingian dynasty fell to pieces, the Roman forms maintained by Clovis and the sons of Pepin melted away before the barbaric invasions of the North, and the Normans, best representatives of the new ideas of rude civilization, spread far and wide, to England, Italy, Sicily, and Scandinavia, in search of conquests. In 872, Harold, the Fair haired, after ten years of warfare against the petty princes and suzerains, founded, by a naval victory, the kingdom of Norway. In 874 the Normans penetrated as far north as Iceland, took possession of it, and planted therein the germs of empire. The island remained pagan till the year 1,000, when it exchanged the primitive Gothic rites inculcated by its Sagas for the higher forms taught by the eloquence and example of Saint Olaf. For centuries, its history was linked with that of Sweden and Norway, and its children shared the fortunes of the bold marauders who preyed upon the coasts of Germany, England, and France, or hunted sea-lions along the bleak shores of Greenland and Labrador. In the fourteenth century the island was annexed to Denmark, with which it remains to the present day. The Danish king has gone to Reikiavik for the first time in history, to preside in person over the millennial celebration, and inaugurate the important constitutional changes which he has accorded to the inhabitants of that distant colony. It appears that henceforth Iceland is to have a special constitution and a separate ministry, quite distinct from that of Copenhagen. She will regulate her own local affairs almost exclusively, take no part in the general administration of Denmark, and pay no taxes arising out of the necessities of the kingdom at large. The Iceland Ministry will reside at Copenhagen, but will be represented at Reikiavik by a Governor charged with the administration of the island. The Legislature meets every two years, on the 1st of July, and is composed of thirty-six members, six of whom are appointed by the king. The main clauses of the new constitution relate to the right of assembling, the prerogative of co-operative unions, the liberty of the press, the abolition of privileges, the regulation of public instruction, and the obligation of military service. We shall soon have full particulars of all these things, along with detailed accounts of the festivities, from the pens of several American correspondents, such as Bayard Taylor, Murat Halstead, and Dr. Hayes, who, along with Cyrus Field, have gone to Iceland expressly for the purpose of assisting at the millennial celebration. Whatever pictorial illustrations of the same event may reach us we shall take pleasure in placing before our readers.

The large number of libel suits against newspaper proprietors which are now awaiting the decision of the courts would seem to indicate either a growing license in the tone of the press in this country, or a proportionate increase of tender feeling among our public men. Just now such suits appear to be all the rage, and, stranger still, even members of the press are not free from the prevailing mania. Of course, if a man's most sacred relations have been dragged out before the public in a distorted form, he is only justified in demanding an enquiry, and, where occasion requires, the summary punishment of the offender. But, *il y a fautes et fautes*: A criminal suit is one thing, a civil suit another. When a man has been injured in his character and his sensibilities by the false statements of an ill-wisher, no one can blame him for demanding the punishment of his traducer. But when such a man, neglecting the criminal procedure which should bring about the conviction of his traducers, delib-