

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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IN the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference on Confederation, of October, 1864, was one defining the powers of the Local Legislatures. Among the subjects coming within their control was the very important one of Education. The exact words are to be found on the fourth page of the official report of the Debates, and they are these: "The Local Legislatures shall have power to make laws respecting the following subjects:..... 6. Education; saving the rights and privileges which the Protestant or Catholic Minority in both Canadas may possess as to their Denominational Schools at the time when the Union goes into operation." In the course of the Debate, the Hon. Mr. Rose, in compliance with a request by the Hon. Mr. Holton. (Debates, page 410,) asked an explanation of the meaning of this clause, but no explicit answer was returned by Attorney General Cartier to that part of the question which related to the Schools themselves. A bill was promised, which should satisfy all parties, as to the distribution of the moneys arising from Commercial Companies, and such control by Protestants in Lower Canada over their own schools as would satisfy them; but that was all.

Now we contend, as we have hitherto maintained, that Protestants have *no denominational* schools in Lower Canada. They have no necessity for them, and, we believe, would be contented to have the present law, as a whole, left undisturbed. With the conflicting religious elements which exist in the country, with so many different branches of the Protestant Church, most of them differing more in name, however, than in reality, they have never for one moment entertained the thought of establishing denominational schools, being fully assured that such a purpose would inevitably defeat the object they have in

view, that of the proper education of their children. They have, therefore, borne uncomplainingly the injuries which they have had to suffer, overcome, as far as possible, the obstacles thrown in their way, and submitted to acts of injustice to which they have been exposed. We are told by Mr. Cartier. (Debates, page 411,) that we will not find that there is any such thing as Catholic or Protestant Schools mentioned in the laws of Lower Canada, a fact well known to all who have studied the subject, and Protestants have scrupulously adhered to the law. Have the Roman Catholics done so? Have they not day by day, and year by year, been gradually circum-cribing the privileges belonging to the people of this country of having their children educated as they would desire them to be? Not Protestants alone, but their own people also, are subjected to the despotism, the irresponsible despotism, which is exercised by the Educational Office; for many Roman Catholics, desirous of sending their children to the Common Schools, have been compelled to send them to inferior Sectarial Schools, so as to prevent them from receiving the benefits of a more enlarged education than these afford. And it is probably well that the constantly increasing aggressions of this Office should go on without delay, that the mask being thrown off, no room may longer be left for doubt as to the ultimate designs of the Romish Priesthood working through their obedient tool, the Superintendent of Education.

With a fixed and settled purpose before them, under complete organization, and having at their command the whole power which the complete control of the Education Office gives them, the priesthood occupy a most advantageous position in this country in carrying on the contest in which they are now engaged. They see clearly, if we do not, that the higher the advantages they possess before the Union of the Provinces is proclaimed, the stronger will be their