

## CONCLUSION.

To sum up: The following is the result of the enquiry made by Dr. Merchant, and of the study we have made of his document: Our schools have an incontestable value; their shortcomings are not due to bilingualism, but to exterior circumstances which we are the first to regret, and to desire to see removed as soon as possible. The chief cause of the deficiencies which may possibly exist is the shortage of teachers under which we suffer, and the pedagogical inexperience or lack of professional preparation of a certain number among them, relatively much smaller than in the public schools. Nor did we, by any means, have to wait for Dr. Merchant's report, in order to be conscious of these deficiencies; on the contrary, we have badgered the public authorities, in writing and by delegation, for many years past, to help us in this very matter, to give us our fair and proportional share of the school taxes, and to afford our teaching staff such conditions as shall enable our masters to attend professional courses and to obtain their pedagogical certificates. We have not been listened to, but our voice is on record, nevertheless; justice is still strong, and no mere clamour can drown its protests. That is the present state of the question.

Or, rather, it is advancing. Two currents are becoming discernible in the flood of those on which we depend for the liberty of our schools. The current of the narrow, sectarian, fanatical and intolerant minds which shouts and roars against us; the current, also growing ever stronger, of those who