

5. The question of a uniform system of preliminary examination for entrance on professional studies.

The Sub-Committee have given consideration to all these matters, but as (with the exception of No. 5) they are based on the fundamental distinctions which arise out of the difference in creed between Roman Catholics and Protestants, they will not be prepared to report on them, until they have had the opportunity of studying carefully the proposed code.

With regard to No. 5, the Sub-Committee feel that the system of examination, to be just and reasonable, should be founded, at all events so far as the Protestant population is concerned, on the curriculum of the Protestant public schools of the Province. Candidates would thereby understand the nature of the examination, and the friends of education would be aided in their endeavor to raise and maintain a high standard in the public schools.

They therefore recommend that a special sub-committee be appointed to confer with the corporation of the University of McGill College and the council of Bishop's College with the view of bringing into harmony the whole educational system of the Province in respect of superior education, pointing out at the same time, especially, the desirability, nay even the necessity of providing that the Arts course of the Universities shall so satisfy the reasonable demands of the Professional faculties, that a candidate seeking to enter on professional studies, who has obtained a degree or passed the Intermediate examination, shall be entitled to enter on such studies without further examination.

The Sub-Committee would further point out that in regard to this same subject, they made the following recommendations in their report of the 29th November, 1882, sec. 6, viz :

“vi. Notwithstanding anything contained in any of the following Acts . . .
 “ - it shall be competent for the Protestant Committee
 “ of the Council of Public Instruction to decide by regulation to that effect,
 “ that the degrees in Arts of any British or Canadian University shall be
 “ held sufficient to entitle candidates being Protestant, to enter upon the study
 “ of the legal, medical, and notarial or other incorporated profession, in lieu
 “ of the preliminary examinations now fixed which may hereafter be fixed by
 “ law.”

With a view to prepare such amendments as will meet the difficulties which surround the fundamental question of the difference in creeds, the Sub-committee are of opinion that a classification of the subjects covered by the various Acts of Parliament should be made. Such a classification would greatly facilitate their labours, and tend to make such amendments as may be deemed necessary, easy of comprehension. Such classification should include the following heads, viz:—

1. Educational grants and the principles which underlie their distribution. Also school taxation with reference specially to the application of Roman Catholic money to Protestant schools, and *vice versa*.

2. The Constitution, powers and jurisdiction of the Protestant Committee.

3. The office of the Superintendent in his relation to the Protestant Committee.