

feeble attempt to explain its Mic-mac origin from *akade*, a place, generally used in conjunction with another Indian word, giving some natural characteristic of the locality. If Mr. Larned had turned to Dr. Rand's English Mic-mac dictionary he would have found very many examples of the use of the affix, to place the question beyond dispute. To the North-West Territory of the United States there are devoted several pages of extracts—very interesting and necessary certainly—but we should have liked to see more attention given to the North-West region of Canada. As it is, we find an extract of just seventeen lines from the same English professor I have already mentioned. In other parts of the book quotations are taken from authors as late as 1893 and 1894 in order to make the compilation as useful as possible; but in this particular instance—and, indeed, in most cases relating to the Dominion—we have to be satisfied with ancient history. Mr. Larned does not condescend to help us later than the formation of the first Government of the Territories, and to tell us of the establishment of representative institutions and an elected assembly some years before this fourth volume could have been compiled.

As I continued to turn over the pages of Mr. Larned's historical compilation my eye caught the heading of Steam Navigation, and here again we find insufficient and misleading information. A long extract is taken from an American author with reference to the voyage of the *Savannah* across the ocean in 1819. Mr. Larned must surely have read what has been written and spoken on this subject for some years past. He has the transactions of the Royal Society and the public documents of Canada in his library to tell him that it is beyond dispute that a Canadian steamer, *The Royal William*, was the first to cross the ocean entirely by steam power in 1833. As a matter of fact, the *Savannah* was a sailing packet and some steam machinery was placed in her temporarily. She used steam for only a part of the voyage and her sails for a good deal of the time. Subsequently she was relegated to her original condition of a sailing vessel. At the present time there is fixed to the wall at the entrance of the Library of Parliament at Ottawa a handsome brass tablet which commemorates this interesting voyage of the *Savannah* and owes its origin to the energy of Dr. Sanford Fleming. This tablet was placed in position on the 28th of June last by his Excellency the Governor-General in the presence of the delegates to the Colonial Conference, the speakers of both houses of Parliament, members of the Government, members of the Royal Society of Canada and its associated societies, and of the venerable Mr. G. W. Wicksteed and Mr. Horace Wicksteed, one of whom was on the trial trip, and the other saw the steamer on her arrival in an English port. The inscription on the memorial brass records the fact that it was placed in the presence of so distinguished an assemblage and sets forth that it is—

"IN HONOUR OF THE MEN

"By whose enterprise, courage and skill

"The

"ROYAL WILLIAM

"The first to cross the Atlantic by steam power was wholly constructed in Canada and navigated to England in 1833. The pioneer of those mighty fleets of ocean steamers by which passengers and merchandise of all nations are now conveyed on every sea throughout the world.

"Ordered by the Parliament of Canada, June 13-15th, 1894."

It is to be hoped that Mr. Larned will recollect this historic fact in a new edition of his work.

J. G. BOURINOT.

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### Letters to the Editor.

#### THE MANITOBA SCHOOL CASE.

To the Editor of The Week :

Sir,—Principal Grant deprecates interference in the Manitoba School Case, on the ground that "by the organic law of Canada, education is a Provincial affair." The Privy Council recognizes Provincial control, yet suggests Federal interference in this instance; manifestly on the principle that the misuse of a Provincial right, producing local grievance and general jeopardy, calls for Federal, failing Provin-

cial, rectification. Their Lordships have not said that a Province may so deal with education as to imperil the peace of the Dominion. This is just what Principal Grant assumes it *can* do. He takes it for granted that the right of Manitoba to legislate at will on a question as wide as Christendom to-day is beyond question. I venture to question it. Common sense pronounces such a claim invalid. It is too sweeping as applied to education. In a general way, that is, within strictly Provincial limits, each Province has full control of her schools; and were the effects of the Act of 1890 confined to Manitoba, Federal interference were an impertinence. But they are not so confined. The grievance of the Manitoba minority it felt to the extremities of the Dominion. This one fact is fatal to the non-interference position; makes interference imperative—*independent* of further warrant. In the last resort it, of necessity, withdraws the question from Provincial to Federal control; makes it for Confederation a matter of profound concern; its well-being, if not its very being. If this be so, Federal interference, (failing local redress) is so much a duty, that its absence were little short of the suicidal.

I contend that education does not stand on the same plane as other matters which are of purely local interest, and under *absolute* Provincial control. It their very nature these are so entirely domestic and circumscribed, that, to their very wildest mismanagement the rest of the Dominion would be quite irresponsive, if not utterly indifferent. Let me illustrate. Suppose Manitoba should sink an artesian well, whence gushed torrents of bitter water: I suppose no sane Ontarian would challenge her right so to do. Nay, should a new "Salt Lake" or "Dead Sea" result to the detriment of even French settlers, no Quebecer would cry out. The business were Manitoba's, and her alone. But, let this unpleasant fluid transgress Provincial limits; at once confronts us the question of Provincial rights. This is just what Manitoba has done. She has tapped a bitter fountain, whose streams invade every Province, envenoming society. The sad effects of her ill-advised school legislation are felt over the whole of Canada to-day. Does the fullest educational autonomy warrant this trans-Provincial mischief? What conceivable right, natural or "organic," can a Province have to set the whole Dominion in flames? As individual freedom ends where the general freedom begins, so must Provincial action halt when it reaches the borders of the Federal interest. My neighbour may kindle a fire in his field; but not so as to burn down my house. He may chop down his trees, to his heart's content; but not drop them on my roof, or my head. His "autonomy" may warrant him in damming a stream on his own estate; but not so as to flood a village. Your partner has his personal rights and interests as a member of the firm; but he must not so push them as to injure the company. But, this is just what Manitoba has done, even to imperilling the peace and prosperity of that great firm, of which she is the junior partner.

Nor did she take this unfortunate step in innocent anticipation of consequent explosion. Its authors well knew it would kindle a fire that might melt down the very pillars of Confederation. After the Labour-Capital Question, that of Religio-secular Education is the burning question to-day in all Christian lands. Everywhere rages the conflict between religious education and pure secularism. Such a moment it was that Manitoba chose to put a match to the mine. She has wantonly invoked a demon she cannot control: raised a spectre to haunt her neighbours' bedchambers. Two things are clear; she has gone too far; she must draw back or—be drawn.

JOHN MAY.

#### PROFESSOR SHORTT ON THE NORTH-WEST.

To the Editor of The Week :

SIR,—I have read with much interest Prof. A. Shortt's remarks on the North-West, as expressed in his article published in the *Queen's University Quarterly* for January, '95, and entitled "Some Observations on the Great North-West."

It certainly is a change for the better after reading the masses of immigration literature and unwarranted laudations of the North-West, to find that one of Canada's educated men has the practical insight to see through the outer show of things and the courage to write fearlessly his strictures on the general policy of government towards this larger part of the Dominion.