

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

A REPLY TO MR. WADE.

Mr. Wade's pamphlet is long; but it is not too long. It is an advantage to the Catholic minority that all the arguments which can be urged against them should be brought together—that all the heads should be placed on one neck—for it facilitates the definition of the issues, and presents fine opportunity for reply.

The pamphlet is all the more welcome that it is understood to have been written at the request of the Manitoba Government, and by a gentleman well qualified by professional attainments, literary qualifications, and keen love of the work. It may therefore be taken as exhibiting not only Mr. Wade's views, but those of his clients; and as containing the reasons they desire to urge against the removal of the grievances under which the Catholics in Manitoba are laboring.

It is to deal with those reasons—to show their absurdity and futility—that I make this reply. I do not pretend to include in it the arguments so often already advanced in support of the Catholic side of the case, further than may be necessary to answer the positions taken by Mr. Wade. For such arguments I must content myself with referring readers to the speeches of many able men in Parliament; to the debate before the Governor-General-in-Council in March last; to Mr. Fisher's excellent pamphlets; to the pages of my book upon "The Manitoba School Question"; and to other sources.

I shall take up Mr. Wade's pamphlet chapter by chapter and endeavor to answer definitely and clearly every statement in it which is not too apparently irrelevant.