

If you are willing to permit me to say a word on this question on my own account I would like to add an expression of my belief, based on long study of and acquaintance with this difficult question, that it will never be satisfactorily settled until the province comes to the aid of the localities, at least to the extent of providing county training schools, the teachers of which are expert in the use of both French and English. The school law as it stands now is powerless to solve the problem, and to make the law more drastic will not make it a whit more effective. The only penalty that can be imposed is loss of the legislative grant, and if a locality chooses to do without that it can virtually bid defiance to the educational authorities. Of course we all desire to see all the children of Ontario taught in English, and I have good reason to know that this is especially the desire of the French people who are shrewd enough to see that their children are handicapped by a want of facility in the use of the English tongue. WM. HOUSTON.

*Legislative Library,
Toronto, April 8th, 1889.*

The editor, much to his disappointment, had not the opportunity of being present in the House of Assembly when the discussion on the French language in the Public Schools of Ontario took place; but since receiving Mr. Houston's letter the following extracts have appeared, which contain more distinct and decisive statements than any which have appeared lately in THE MONTHLY. Two or three years ago this magazine made public what was and is going on in the Public Schools in some parts of Eastern Ontario. We hope the remedy will be applied. This we say in the most considerate and friendly spirit to our Celtic fellow-subjects:

"An accumulator of testimony

from various quarters, and from Liberal as well as Conservative sources, makes it impossible any longer to doubt that there are in Ontario many schools, classed as Public Schools and largely supported from public funds, in which the English language is neither used in teaching, nor itself taught with any degree of efficiency. The strong statement to the contrary made by the Minister of Education from his place in the House appears to have been singularly rash and ill-founded. Mr. Ross surely owes it to the public and to himself to offer some explanation. It seems scarcely possible that his words were misreported, nor has the correctness of the newspaper version, so far as we are aware, been called in question, unless, perhaps, by some of his friends, who, with indisputable evidence to the contrary before their eyes, find it difficult to conceive how the Minister's informants could have so misled him as to cause him to make the unfortunate assertion that English is now taught in every Public School in Ontario. Public interest in the question is now pretty thoroughly aroused, and, if it were not, a Cabinet Minister holding the important portfolio of the Education Department cannot afford to allow his accuracy in regard to a question of fact, touching a matter on which he should have the fullest information, to be openly called in question."—*The Week*, 17th April.

"The Toronto correspondent of the *Montreal Witness*, speaking of the discussion on the subject of the teaching of French in our Public Schools, says: 'The Department does not claim that all the children are taught in English, or that all the teachers can speak English so as to be able to speak in that language. All it claims to have accomplished is that the authorized English readers are now used in every Public School in Ontario.' This is not quite correct. Mr. Ross stated in the Legislature