

# The True Witness.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

From Paris we learn that the commercial crisis, about which so much uneasiness has been felt, is subsiding. The amount of bullion in the Bank is said to be increasing and the stringent, but prudent measures, adopted to meet the financial exigencies of the country, were already beginning to bring forth good fruit. Russia is reported to have abandoned her pretensions to the Isle of Serpents, and to have given formal notice for the re-assembling of the Congress of Paris; to which France and Prussia have assented and now await only the concurrence of the British government. From England the news is devoid of interest.

Now, in Lower Canada, the Protestant minority can always—if there be only 15 children of school-age within, not the school district, but the entire Municipality—establish one or more separate schools; and by keeping them open for eight months during the year, can claim complete exemption from all school rates levied by their Catholic neighbors. By section 26 of the Act of 1846, “*any number whatever of the inhabitants of a Municipality,*” by merely signifying their dissent to the School Commissioners of their Municipality, can name three Trustees for the management of their separate schools; these Trustees can circumscribe their own dissentient school districts without regard to the limits prescribed by the School Commissioners; and may

One other consideration would we most respectfully submit to our friend. If the School Laws of Upper Canada were as favorable to the establishment of separate schools, as are the School Laws of the Lower Province—would Mr. George Brown, and the enemies of "Freedom of Education," oppose a measure tending to assimilate the laws of the first-named section of the Province to those of the other? In the strenuous opposition offered by the Protestants of Upper Canada to Mr. Felton's amendment, is there not, to the reflecting mind, abundance of proof that, in the matter of separate schools, the Catholic minority of Upper, are not better treated than, or even so well treated as, are the Protestant minority of Lower Canada? Mr. Felton's motion was negatived, because it is the great object of our enemies to "put down" Catholic separate schools; and because they well know that

We shall be told, no doubt, that, by taking active steps to redress the admitted wrongs inflicted upon the Catholics of Upper Canada, Ministers will endanger their official existence, and run the risk of losing their situations and their quarterly salaries. Awful however as this catastrophe may appear in the eyes of "government hacks," we confess that we are perfectly and stoically indifferent to it—and that we have hopes, strong hopes, even if that great luminary, M. Cauchon, were to be extinguished to-morrow, and consigned to his pristine obscurity, that the light of the world would not be altogether darkened—that the earth would still continue to revolve upon its axis, and perform its accustomed circuit round the sun—and that his loss would not be severely felt, even in this small portion of the globe, known as Canada. In that peculiar system of corruption and venality of which the supporters of the Ministerial "Religious Incorporations Bill" of last session are, as it were, the centre, a change of Ministry might, no doubt, be felt as a very serious calamity—as a sort of relapse into chaos and original nothingness; but we flatter ourselves that the Catholic Church, which has so long withstood so many tempests, would still survive the storm, and flourish none the worse. Indeed,

"4th. Defrauding Catholics of their just share of any school fund except the Government Grant. No such fraud is perpetrated on the Protestants of Lower Canada.

† ARMD. DE CHARDONNEL,  
Bishop of Toronto.

† JOHN FARRELL,  
Bishop of Hamilton.

This 4th "Point" is sustained by those Clauses in

Amongst the passengers by the steamer *North American* was the Rev. M. Pare of the Eveche. The reverend gentleman has, we are happy to say, returned in good health after his trip to Europe.