

The first book we have already described, it is simply the primer of the Roman Church, which is being substituted in Ontario schools for the authorized text books."

Regarding the above, in the absence of either any official report from the inspectors, or of any counter-story, let it be said—

First. That in L'Orignal, as in the united counties generally, the Franco-Roman Catholic membership far exceeds the combined membership of all other religious bodies, the entire Roman Catholic membership being 588 out of a total of 903, according to the census of 1881, while in the united counties 30,130 Roman Catholics are shown out of the total 38,022 population. If one may speculate, he may say that perhaps on the ground of mere majority representation the French Roman Catholics consider themselves entitled to special privileges in school matters. At the same time it appears to our benighted minds that to drive out a minority from their own building, to virtually dismiss a competent principal on the ground of his nationality, and to refuse the petition for a Separate School, is unwarrantable and unjustifiable on any mere majority principle.

Secondly. That even supposing the incompetency of the principal, it is a great mistake to select a born Frenchman to teach English even to those of his own countrymen, and this is said without any reflection on the ability or competence of M. Famillard or his colleagues. The reason is a plain and a simple one. Composite as is our English tongue, and containing nearly all the distinctive foreign

sounds of letters, *e.g.*, the French *u* in the Scottish word *guid*, the German *ch* in the Scottish word *loch*, and in the Irish *lough*, it is far more easy for a cultured English-speaking person to acquire the peculiarities of French or of German, and to teach even in these languages, than for a Frenchman or a German to do the same with regard to our own tongue.

Thirdly. That if this agitation bring before the teachers of Ontario the necessity for improving the study of "Moderns," as we have improved the branches of Mathematics, English and Drawing, something will indeed have been gained. If it tend to show us that to hold our own in competition with the French of the Eastern and of the Western (Essex and Kent) counties, we must think in French, if it tend to show us that the Germans of Waterloo, South Grey and Bruce, though not so numerous, yet clinging as tenaciously to their language and their customs, have claims also for their noble tongue not to be disregarded; and if the result be the improvement in the better study of and the popularizing of these two great languages, even these few pages may not have been written in vain.

Lastly, the writer craves a brief space for a final apology for so incomplete and so fragmentary a treatment of such an interesting subject. He desires to state that his endeavour has been to treat the few facts at his disposal fairly and impartially, without either fear or favour of the powers. that be, without seeking to attack or to defend, and without obtruding his own private views as a citizen and as a teacher on the generous public.