

them, to rise to the very topmost round of the ladder of success in this world. With that view the Commissioners have lately taken under their charge the High School of Montreal. A very onerous work will devolve upon the Commissioners in connection with that school. It is our purpose to remodel it, to make it at once a school for a higher classical education, and a school also for a thorough commercial education; while, at the same time, we hope to be able to reduce the fees. I am sure this statement will be gratifying to my friends around me who are engaged in mercantile pursuits in this city. We have felt all along that there has been a need in this the greatest commercial city of the Dominion of a thoroughly equipped commercial school. There is one object which we desire to accomplish in connection with the work of education in the city of Montreal, and that is the establishment of a Girls' High School, so that the daughters of our humbler citizens may, at a comparatively small charge, obtain the advantages of a thorough education—such an education as our Normal School teachers receive; and so also that by competition girls may go up from this school and other schools like it—from the common schools—free of charge into this high school for girls. The Commissioners feel that this is a work which must not be lost sight of. But it is a work which they shrink from undertaking unless the wealthy citizens of Montreal, are prepared to provide for the Commissioners, free of charge, a building for this purpose. Such a building would cost perhaps about \$15,000. With \$15,000 we could establish—for it would be a self-sustaining institution—a High School for Girls, so that the daughters as well as the sons of the humblest classes may rise to distinction in learning and prepare themselves the better for the world.

I wish to say a word in regard to the religious character of these schools. I am not unmindful that the Board, of which I have the honor to be Chairman, is a Protestant Board, and I need not say to my friend on my right (Hon. Mr. Chauveau), and others friends belonging to the religious majority, whom we are glad to see with us, that while we are ready to manifest and to exercise the completest toleration to them, and to live in unity and concord and peace with our Roman Catholic fellow subjects, yet we feel that we have principles to maintain in our Protestant schools. The Bible is honored in our schools; it is read and studied; its history, its geography, its principles, moral and religious, are, as far as we have been able to overtake that important work, faithfully taught to the children. And I would be very glad, and so would my brother Commissioners, if the clergy of the city, whom we are delighted to welcome here to-day, would occasionally pay a visit to the schools, and examine for themselves into the character of the religious training which is given. It would be, I am sure, satisfactory to his Lordship, the Metropolitan, and to the other clergy of the city if they would go, and I would be happy to go with them at any time to examine these schools in regard to the character of the religious instruction which is imparted. We believe, as Commissioners, that the Bible must be retained in our Protestant Common Schools. That is our view, and that we intend to maintain at all risks and hazards. For I believe in the admirable words which His Royal Highness has just read to us, that we must have all classes of our people educated upon the basis of our common bible. We find no fault with our Roman Catholic friends, but we maintain our principles.

I fear that I have already exceeded the limits which I should have allotted to myself; but I feel that, perhaps, the Commissioners will never have such an opportunity again of explaining to the citizens of Montreal what they are doing and what they hope to do. I will say before I sit down that it is a very great gratification to me and to my brother Commissioners to find ourselves surrounded by so large a number of wealthy fellow-citizens, by so large a number of the clergy of the city, by the Metropolitan, who has lately come amongst us, and whom may God bless and preserve in his great work. And it is gratifying to find on my left my old friend, the Right Reverend Bishop Stevens of Pennsylvania. Glad am I to meet him to-day. And it is a special pleasure—a pleasure which I cannot find words to describe—that we should be honoured to-day with the presence of a son of our Most Gracious Queen, whom may God long preserve to rule over an unbroken and united empire—and the son of that great and good prince, who, perhaps, more than any other prince in the history of Great Britain, did more to elevate the middle and lower classes of the people of Great Britain. One word more—I intend to let out a secret. At the next meeting of the Board I intend to propose that this school shall be remembered by this day, and that we shall call it—I trust His Royal Highness will grant us this permission—"The Royal Western School."

Hon. Mr. Chauveau was then introduced by the Chairman, and was received with cheers. He said: Your Royal Highness, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am most happy to be present

on this auspicious occasion. I have felt for a long time in common with my friend the Chairman, and with both the Catholic and Protestant Board of School Commissioners, the insufficiency of the means provided by the city of Montreal for the education of the children. The new law has placed, as you have heard, a very large sum of money at the disposal of both the Boards of School Commissioners; and has made it so that the taxes of Catholics go to Catholic schools, and those of Protestants to Protestant schools, while the sum given by the Government is divided according to population. This gives a larger relative proportion to the Protestant schools. I see with pleasure that these gentlemen as well as their *confrères* of my own religion, have promptly improved the occasion, and set to work building school houses and providing for the education of a larger number of children. We all feel that under our form of Government, with the difficulties to which this country is subject on account of its climate, geographical position and political position also, the education of the people is our greatest need and our first duty. Therefore, we ought to feel grateful to those who are entrusted with this great work, when they do their duty. It may be said they only do their duty, and are not entitled to special thanks for that, but there are two ways of doing one's duty. One is doing it *ad justum*; the other is doing it with a zeal and energy, and with a steady determination to be successful; and that is the way in which these gentlemen have done their duty. It is certainly gratifying to see in so short a time this fine building erected and this school in operation, under the law passed not quite a year ago. Your Royal Highness has not given to-day for the first time, evidence of the interest you feel in the education of the people of these Provinces. You had hardly entered the good old city of Quebec when your Royal Highness was engaged in visiting the educational institutions of various grades. I remember quite well, after a regular course of visits to these institutions, another institution, an elementary school, applied for a visit. I felt for my part that the task had been pretty well fulfilled, and I thought it hardly fair that your Royal Highness should be taken to another school. But I remember your Royal Highness insisted upon visiting that school, because it was an elementary school, one of that humble class of schools which are at the foundation of the whole system of public instruction. And this meeting knows full well that this has been the conduct not only of Prince Arthur but of his brother, the Prince of Wales, during his stay in Canada. And I may say, for I have been recently hunting up some old newspapers, that it was the course pursued by His Royal Highness' grand father, Prince Edward. When in Canada he visited schools, and gave a most liberal patronage to education in every way.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I shall conclude by expressing my most earnest wish for the success of your undertaking. Of course, connected as I am with you in the most important of my duties, those connected with public instruction, it is but natural that I should wish every success to an undertaking of this kind. You have said, Mr. Chairman, a few words on which I might comment, but I will abstain from it. As to the religious position of our schools, there is one satisfactory feature, and that is, that we have most heartily agreed to disagree. We have found out—whatever may be said elsewhere, or tried elsewhere, I don't care—we have found out that the best mode of giving a sound religious education, is to give it by not excluding the religious views of the parents from the schools of the children. We found out and carried into practice, as far as regards the two great divisions of this country—Catholics and Protestants—that there should be sectarian schools. The law admits of mixed schools, and if any community are so inclined, or are so situated that they are under the necessity of having a mixed school, they are welcome to have it. But whenever either party chooses to separate they are allowed to separate and carry into the school the religious views of the parents of the children. Of course you have full scope as well as the other portion of the population. But I hope and trust that while the religious views of each section are taught, at the same time nothing shall be taught that would create animosity or generate bad feeling between the two sections of the people in this Province and that mutual friendship, mutual toleration, a common love for our common country, and a common attachment to our institutions and our Queen shall be taught in all classes of schools in the Province of Quebec.

The Metropolitan then closed the meeting by pronouncing the benediction.—*Daily News.*