

Enough has been said to show that Quebec has a complete system of religious education; and in doing so, especial restraint was exercised, lest any opinion upon its merits might have been expressed, or any criticism offered. The time has now come to do both, and put it to every test which we can employ. Has this system done what it set out to do? It has kept young feet from straying from the paths of truth; and that, upon the authority of Archbishop Bruchesi, quoting Pope Leo XIII., is what it set out to do. We can proceed no further in this line of enquiry, because it brings us up against the question: What is truth? We shall yield everything, and agree that it is neither a good thing nor a bad thing to be kept in the paths of truth. We shall yield something more, and leave out of account the ineffable beauties of religion, the peace, the joy which comes from a communion with a spirit higher than our own. When we meet with our opponents in the gate, I imagine we shall do better to speak in terms which they can understand, and employ a currency which is familiar to them.

When we were describing the course of study which is followed in the classical colleges, we selected the Montreal College for purpose of illustration, and it must have caused some glee to the opponents of religious education to read the details of the religious teaching given there. Yet I am quite prepared to stand by the results which such a system produces, by asking the judgement of the world upon the careers and characters which have been formed in these schools. I shall agree to any standard which may be set up—excellence of conduct, beauty of character, social attainment, political place and power. No: I withdraw. You must not employ against us the standard of wealth.

It is because French-Canadians are properly educated that they live in comfort at home, govern in their own Provincial House, and dominate the politics of Canada, as they have dominated since Confederation. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is commonly regarded as a good example of a well-educated man, and he is a product of this system. From his College of