

schools as his livelihood ; and while all praise is due to those men, often clergymen, who have done as much as their other engagements have permitted, often with much discomfort and at a pecuniary sacrifice, we decidedly think that County Councils would best consult the interests of education, by appointing to local Superintendents a competent salary, requiring their whole time for the work, and giving them a considerable number of schools of which to take the oversight. Parsimony here is one of many foolish economies.

We cannot discuss the state of common school education, without noticing two questions which now invest the subject with the deepest interest. The first is the question of "Separate Schools," on which the public attention has of late been earnestly fixed. The separate schools in Canada West now number about twenty. According to the present provisions of the Act, Roman Catholics, who are the only parties demanding separate schools, have a right to establish them under their own trustees, and to teach in them the tenets and usages of the Church of Rome. When they have established a separate school, they share in the school grant of the Legislature according to the number of scholars in attendance, and are exempt from all local taxation for school purposes. This indulgence, though tending to the dissolution of the common school system, has not as yet issued in any serious injury. The Roman Catholics are not sufficiently numerous, except in cities and large towns, to render the establishment of separate schools practicable. Indeed, if left to themselves, they would generally prefer to send their children to the common school, as its advantages are superior to those of a separate school, and there is no attempt made to interfere with their religion. But though the people might be satisfied, the priests are not. Knowing that the excellent education afforded by our common schools will gradually enlighten the people, and break the bonds of ignorance that chain them to the superstitions of Popery, they have made a demand which, if conceded, would entirely overthrow our common school system. The Act proposed by the Popish party, among other things, provides, that any rate payer "who, when required to pay his school taxes or rates, shall present to the collector a certificate in duplicate from the Secretary Treasurer of the Trustees, or any Board of Trustees of any Roman Catholic separate school or schools, that he has paid all school rates or taxes required by such Trustees or Board for the then current year, shall be exempted from the payment of all rates or taxes imposed for the building or support of common schools or common school libraries for the same year." This clause would put it in the power of Roman Catholic trustees, not only to gain over parties to the support of their separate schools, by taking from them a less sum than the taxes for the common schools, but even to exempt any one from all taxes for school purposes, by granting him a certificate. This Bill if passed, would be not only a concession to Popish bigotry, and a wrong to Protestantism, but would form the triumph of a plot against education. The consequences of such a bill would be the complete overthrow of our school system, the development of the bitterest religious animosities, and the reign of Popish ignorance with its ten thousand withering influences. Every resistance must be made by the Christian, the philanthropist, and the patriot, to these daring attempts of Popery. To be ignorant on this subject is inexcusable, and to be indifferent is a crime.

The other question is that of Religious instruction in the schools, and it has confessedly its difficulties. A religious man desires to see the education of his children not only *founded* on Christianity, but *pervaded* by it. We regard all education which is merely secular as necessarily imperfect. To train the intellect, and to leave the heart untutored, is only to half educate. To pour in all other knowledge, but to deny the knowledge of the Highest—to exhibit all secondary truths, but to hide the source of all truth, is only to half instruct. To