

duced no effect on the desire of a very considerable number of our Protestant population (for the movement came from them) to establish schools under their own control.

I am not going in this place to enter on this question. It is one involving many difficulties, and frequently producing so much acrimony and prejudice that no good purpose could be served by its discussion. Persons of the most enlightened views differ widely on this point and, after all, the decision arrived at is, generally speaking, a compromise. If we possessed in reality what we sometimes claim to have, a Common Christianity, the difficulties would vanish, but this Nineteenth Century of the Christian era seems as far off the Millennium as any former period, and the result of enlightenment has been rather to widen than to soften religious differences although it has no doubt mitigated persecution.

Our new Board of Protestant School Commissioners, entered on their work with zeal. The old Academy, which had been built by private subscription and carried on by trustees, was handed over to the new Board as a gift from the proprietors. This caused some regrets, for some of the best men of Sherbrooke have owed their success in life to their connection with this Academy, the late Judge Sanborn being a case in point. The building (a substantial brick edifice), was converted into a "Young Ladies' Academy," cleaned, repaired and refitted, and a similar but larger building was erected, as a High School for boys, in a different part of the city. I wish our School Board had called the first of these a High School for girls instead of a Young Ladies' Academy, but we are all of noble race now. There are no men or women, boys or girls, in the northern part of this great continent.

Besides the above a fine, large, well-planned building was erected as a Central School for elementary education, provision being made for children of remote parts of the city in buildings of smaller size and pretension. Their turn will come by and by, when the Commissioners are in funds to do all that they have in contemplation. The material comforts of the bulk of the children and their teachers have thus been provided for, and neither teachers nor pupils have any reasonable ground of complaint. The Commissioners have also sought to secure good teachers by paying good salaries.