

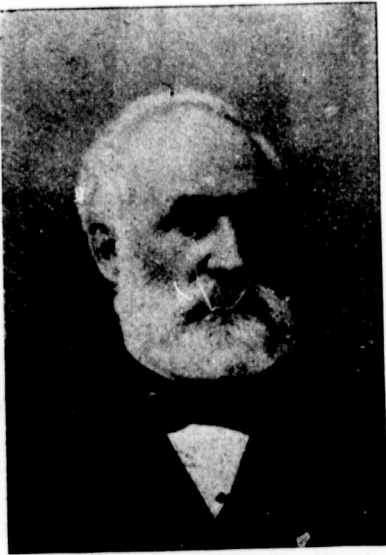
interference, "Fas est et ab hoste doceri." As the Principal himself says: "They (his opinions) can be taken for what they are worth, but the facts which have been stated must stand, and every reader can draw his own conclusions from them."

In the discussion which has taken place upon this question during the present year in pamphlets, magazines and newspapers much has been said, by those opposed to the restoration of

form a homogeneous people; and the practical difficulties in the way of carrying out a system involving the maintenance of more than one school in the more sparsely settled districts of the Province have been dwelt upon as a ground for refusing to yield to the petitions of the minority. But to the really material questions:—"Have the Catholic minority in Manitoba a constitutional right to the restoration of Separate Schools?" and—"Granted this right and the constitutional obligation of upholding it, what are the proper—the most prudent—the most efficacious means of attaining this object?"—to these vital questions the opponents of restoration have devoted but little attention.

The old Catholic Schools were, they say, sadly deficient. Principal Grant declares that "under this system the schools were in my opinion as well taught and managed as was possible in the circumstances of a Province so sparsely settled and with the winters so severe that to this day in not a few sections the schools are closed from December to April." But were the former Catholic Schools utterly inefficient, and there is no doubt that in some rural districts they were poor,—that fact has no bearing upon the question of the right of the minority to the restoration of their schools.

If these defects existed the proper remedy to apply was reform—not abolition. As Principal Grant puts it "there is no need to burn a house down in order to taste crackling." If there were defects he says, "any Government proposing to remedy them would sooner or later have been sustained by the common sense of the people"—but, "the men responsible for the change did not attack the old system for faulty administration or poor results, but took the ground



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Separate Schools in Manitoba, of the defective condition of the Catholic Schools under the old School law; and we have heard not a little of the supposed educational disadvantages which Catholic children are said to suffer by reason of defects assumed to be inseparable from Separate Schools. Much has been written about the desirability of all the youth of the country being educated in common public schools, because this, it is argued with marvellous wisdom, would tend to