

Review

AD MAJOREM DEIGLORIAM.

THE ONLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS WEST OF TORONTO.

WINNIPEG MANITOBA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1894.

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TO THE

CATHOLICS

OF

WESTERN CANADA.

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NORTHVIEST REVIEW

Journal in Canada devoted solely to the interests of Catholics in the Northwest.

FOR THE

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TO THE QUEEN.

REVERED, beloved,—O you that hold A nobler office upon earth Than arms, or power of brain, or birth, Could give the warrior kings of old.

Victoria!--May you rule us long, And leave us rulers of your blood As noble till the latest day! May children of her children say, "She wrought her people lasting good;

"Her court was pure; her life serene; God gave her peace; her land reposed; A thousand claims to reverence closed In her as mother, wife and Queen!

"And statesmen at her council met Who knew the seasons, when to take Occasion by the hand, and make The bonds of freedom wider yet,

ALFRED TENNYSON

# IMPORTANT PETITION

TO THE GOVERNOR-GENER-AL-IN-COUNCIL.

On the School Question is Presented, Bearing the Signatures of the Entire Roman Catholic Episcopate in Canada-Full

To His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada in Council. May it please Your Excellency.

The petition of the undersigned. His Quebec, the Most Reverend Archbishops and the Right Reverend the Bishops of the Roman Catholic church in the Dominion of Canada, devoted subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Humbly showeth:

1. Since the establishment of the Province of Manitoba, until 1890 the Public Schools of the Province, as established by law, were either Protestant or Catholic Schools. They all enjoyed the same er, being conducted, directed and supported by the respective sections of

Society

OF WESTERN CANADA.

CONFERENCE OF WINNIPEG.

Meets in their Hall 183 Water street, opposite Manitoba Hotel, every Mouday at eight (8) P. M.

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Meets in their Hall 183 Water street, opposite Manitoba Hotel, every Mouday at eight (80) P. M. Catholic Schools with a lassertions to the contrary, the result of the new system is purely and in spite of all assertions to the contrary, the result of the new system is purely and simply the legal suppression of all Catholic Schools, with all the rights, and privileges they enjoyed previous to the School laws of 1890. Catholic schools are abolished by law, while Protestant schools are abolished by law, while Protestant Schools are abolished by law, while Protestant Schools (Schools have nothing to suffer from the new enactment; nay, they gain by it, as the Catholic ratepayers have now to help to the support of Protestant Schools which are exactly what they were, and to which, naturally, Catholic parents money, without any help from the Procannot conscientiously send their child-

> 3. The Public Schools Act of 1890, being 53 Vic., ch. 38 (now ch. 127 of Revised Statutes of 1891), decrees in sections 241 242 that this access where her tions 241,242, that "in cases where, before the coming into force of this act, 'Catholic School Districts have been 'established, covering the same territory 'as any Protestant School District,

such Catholic Sci ool Districts shall 'cease to exist.' The law has been put into force where-

while the Protestant Trustees remained in office and caused taxes to be levied on Catholic as well as Protestant parents, notwithstanding the fact that no Cath-olic children are attending the said Pro-

testant Schools.

4. Section 192 says: "Religious exer"cises in the Public Schools shall be 'conducted according to the regulations "of the Advisory Board." It is therefore lawful to have prayers and religious exercises in the Public Schools of Manitoba, provided the same are fixed and determined by the Advisory Board. Just now all the members of the said Board are Protestants, and owing to the condition of the country, it is clear that influence, if any, in the said Board.

Therefore, Protestant children will be allowed to pray according to their parent's desire, while Catholic children are children, with a Catholic teacher, the cause they are Catholics. said school would be deprived of the Legislative grant, should the teacher or the pupils cross themselves or make use of the "Hail Mary."

ited in the Public Schools of Manitoba; chairman of the Protestant section of the Board of Education, and who is no less the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, and The politicans have the same trouble they did this, when, alongside of the with the liquor question.

nod, in 1893, that the above quoted privileges "are not small things in them-"teacher a degree of liberty in his teaching of what may come before the class-"es in their literature and otherwise,"
"and His Grace adds: "The teachers be realizing their position as Christian

The liberty above mentioned is naturally for Protestants alone, because it is enacted that those Public Schools are "non sectarian," that is to say, that no Catholic teaching can be permitted, while facilities are afforded to zealous and intelligent Protestant teachers to impress upon their pupils their own religious convictions.

See Appendix A, pamphlet by Archbishop Tache, April 1893, and Appendix B. Dr. J. H. Morrison's paper read before the Junior Lib. Con. Ass. of St. John N. B., Feb. 13, 1894.

6. For the last four years, the Catholics of Manitoba have been subjected to the unfair and unjust treatment resulting from the change in the school laws in 1890. They asked in vain for relier; instead of a remedy they have been made the victims of a fresh injustice in

the new Manitoba law, 57 Vic., ch. 28, assented to on March 2nd, 1894.
The clause 161 of the Public Schools Act of I890 read as follows: "Any school "not conducted according to all the pro-"visions of this or any act in force for the "time being, or the regulations of the Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of "Department of Education or the Advis-Opened the Most Reverend Archbishops" ory Board, shall not be deemed a "Public School within the meaning of "the law, and such schools shall not "participate in the legislative grant."

To this provision, in force since 1890. has been added this year, the section 4 of the new law, which reads as follows: Section 151 of chapter 127 is hereby "amended by adding thereto the follow-'ing words: nor the municipal grant, -nor shall any school assessment be "levied or school taxes be collected for "the benefit of such school."

The consequence of this new enactrights and received respectively the legitimate share of legislative grants. They were independent one from another, being conducted, directed and levy a single dollar for Catholic schools and levy as a supervised by the respective sections of this condition. while a Catholic municipality where the population for which they were there are ten Protestant children is ob-established. The system gave such liged by law, to levy on all the Catholics satisfaction that it was the cause of no as well as on the parents of the ten complaint, and the two sections of the population with their respective schools for the education of the said ten Proived in peace, concord, harmony and testant children.

mutual good will.

2. In 1890, laws were passed, changing the School System and replacing it with other enactments which are, for a portion of the community, a source of grief, it says in section 2: "In every case in the organization of a school dis-

money, without any help from the Protestant purse or from public fund, and in a Protestant municipality the Catholic School property, real or personal, goes to the benefit of Protestants.

8. The example given in Manitoba has been partly followed in the Northwest Territories. There the Catholic Separate Schools have been maintained, but in virtue of the Ordinance No. 22, A. D. 1892, they are deprived of their liberty of action and the character which distinguishes them from other schools. So that, in reality, the Catholics of the Northwest are ever it could be applied; for instance, in Winnipeg, Brandon, etc. There the Catholic Trustees have ceased to be Catholic Trustees have ceased to be In both cases the result is very detrimenrecognized since the 1st of May, 1890; tal to the cause of Education and really has in both cases created bad feelings, dissensions and the most deplorable results.

See Appendix C"Memorial of Archbishop Tache," March 1894.

9. The undersigned take the liberty to affirm that they deeply regret the condition of affairs above mentioned. The tion of affairs above mentioned. The be, to help in a fair settlement of the painful experience of the Catholics of actual difficulties. Manitoba and of the Nortewest Territories is also resented by all the Catholics of the Dominion.

The undersigned have no hesitation in stating that a similar feeling certainly exists among many Protestants who, though separated by faith, are united Catholics will never have but very little with the Catholics in a sentiment of such provisions for the relief of the Romjustice, fair play and the desire of the prosperity of their common country.

The undersigned appreciate the political advantages enjoyed by Canada and

deprived of the same liberty, and this under the penalty of forfeiting their legitimate share of public money, because in order to secure to his or her and concilliation which prevails among cause in order to secure to his or her school the Government grant, the teacher must declare, under oath, that no prayer or religious exercise, except those prescribed by the Advisory Board, has been used in the school. Suppose a school attended exclusively by Catholic Canadians should not be oppressed be-

10. The undersigned cannot shut their eyes to a fact closely connected with the history of their country-Catholic missionaries have not waited for the facilities 5. Religious Instruction is not prohib- and material advantages, now, offered by Canada, to bring thereto the light of in that respect and under the heading of morals, the regulations framed under the Old System by the Protestant secthe Old System by the Protestant section of the Board are retained under the missions with their blood. Without fear in a dark cell in the lock-up. In the New system; "stories, memory gems, or hesitation they buried their existence "sentiments in the school lessons, exam- among the most barbarous savages. New system; "stories, memory gems, "sentiments in the school lessons, examination of motives, didactic talks, teaching the ten Commandments etc, are "means to be employed." All this of course is to be used from a Protestant point of view, so much so that the actual chairman of the Protestant section of the control of the protestant section of the control of the co

Rupert's Land, declared before his Sy- | crosses they planted, they fondly rested their gaze on the fleur de lis flag.

Everyone knows that the same Miss-"selves, but they are doubly important ionaries, while their eyes were yet moist "because they carry with them for the with the tears they naturally shed, when they had to sever the ties, by which their whole existence had hitherto been bound up, were as faithful to British dominion as they had been to the bannwho ignore these exercises can hardly er of the land of their origin. It is be realizing their position as Christian well-known that it is largely due to the fidelity of Canadian Catholic Apostles that England owes the quiet possession of the noble colony, which France had planted on the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. What then happened among the inhabitants of L. Nouvelle France was ressible scaled. was possible, solely because its inhabitants were Catholics, and because England had respected their religious convictions. The knowledge of what they allude to, renders more incomprehensible to the undersigned the fact that the Catholics of Manitoba and the Northwest are badly treated because they are Catholics.

11. Catholics believe in the necessity of religious instruction in schools. This conviction imposed upon them conscientions obligations and give them rights of which they cannot be deprived. They cannot be satisfied by the saying: others do not believe as you do, therefore you must change your convictions; others are satisfied and even wish that their children should be brought up and educated in such or such a way, therefore, you Catholics, you cannot stand aside or, if you do, do so at your own expense. Such an argument is neither fair nor just.

The undersigened, pastors of souls, are at one with their flocks, in insisting on the rights they claim, and they are fully determined to preserve them in their integrity. There is in this a question of justice, of natural equity, of prudence and of social economy, closely connected with the fundamental interests of the country.

The Catholics, being under the obligation of educating their children, according to their faith and the religious principles they profess, have, in our free country, the right of establishing their separate schools, and that right they must be allowed to exercise, without being forced to the burden of double school taxes.

The undersigned also take the liberty to state that the Federal Parliament has endowed the schools of Manitoba and of the Northwest with a large domain, in assigning to the support of such schools the eighteenth part of all public lands. Those lands are Canadian property, and how could the Federal Parliament consent to deprive the Catholics of these countries of their legitimate share in the profit derived from such lands, simply because this class of citizens adhere to its religious convictions and wishes to comply with conscientious obligations?

See Appendix D, "A page of the history of the schools of Manitoba," by Archbishop Tache.

12. The undersigned petitioners are fully aware that Manitoba and the Northwest Territories were received into Confederation, after promise made to the first inhabitants of that vast country, in Her name, and by the authority of Her Majesty. The immediate representative of Our Beloved Queen assured them that "respect and attention would be extend-"ed to the different religious persuasions and that on their union with Canada 'all their civil and religious rights and "privileges would be respected." In the estimation of Catholics, their religious rights are not respected and their religious persuasions are not treated with respect and attention, when there are difficulties thrown, by law, in the way of securing to their children an educa-tion, conducted in accordance with their

religious convictions.

13. The undersigned, while petitioning as they do, repudiate the idea of interas they no, repuniate the near of interference with political parties, or with the direction of affairs, purely political or temporal. Their sole object is to secure, for the Catholics, a protection needed for the accomplishment of their religious obligations, and it is in that given and obligations, and it is in that view, and in that view only, that they petition His Excellency the Governor General in Council and ask the Honorable members of of the Senate and of the Commons of Canada, of whatsoever party they may

Therefore your petitioners humbly pray His Excellency the Governor General in Council:

1. To disallow the Act of Manitoba 57 Vic. ch. 28 (1894) and entitled "An Act to amend the Public Schools Act."

2. To give such directions and make an Catholics of Manitoba as to His Excellency in Council may seem fit, with regard to the Manitoba School laws of

3. To communicate with the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories, in order that, by amending ordinances, redress should be given to meet the grievances of which the Catholics of the Northwest complain on account of the Ordinance No. 22, assented to at Regina, on the 31st December, 1892.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound

will ever pray.

Signed by the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec, seven other Archbishops, and twenty-three Bishops, comprising the entire Episcopacy of the Dominion.

THE opinions of some of our politicans

in a dark cell in the lock-up. In the

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uits suit  $\mathtt{ght}\cdot$ rse,

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