

Dr. Merchant will admit—his Report, indeed constrains him to do so—that the general results attained by our schools are, in all these respects, decidedly satisfactory, considering all the circumstances and conditions under which they exist. Before going into particulars, it may be well to draw attention to some of the chief statements of the author of the Report.

(a) INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION.

The Report bears witness to the fact that our children learn all the subjects of the educational schedule. And, in so saying, we mean that they are studied and learned as thoroughly as in the public schools. Our children have, moreover, the advantage of learning their beautiful French tongue, with as much of English as their circumstances demand—and no one will dispute the efficacy of this principle of mental training. It is established, beyond question, not only by the experience of European countries, but by that of our own as well. The particulars to be referred to presently will, moreover, lend additional force to our contention.

The memory of our children is daily cultivated in the bilingual schools. In addition to class lessons, there is the study of prayers, of the commandments of God and of Holy Church, and of the Catechism, which they are bound to learn by heart when they can read well enough to do so for themselves. The parents insist on this study, and rightly so; the child's mind, not less than his heart, draws healthy nourishment from it. There is, moreover, besides this daily exercise, a task of memorizing certain passages selected for recitation.