

resources, at a time when these are imperatively demanded for the institution of new professorships and other purposes, your Committee were requested to take this subject into consideration, with the view of diminishing the expense or increasing the revenue of the school, and would observe that the following alternatives appear in the circumstances to be presented to the Board,

- 1st. The present staff of the School may be reduced.
- 2nd. The Fees of instruction may be increased in amount.
- 3rd. Efforts may be made to obtain adequate public aids to the School.

With respect to the two first of these alternatives, the Committee are very reluctant to enter on the consideration of either.

The present staff, though consisting of men of the highest qualifications, is not more than sufficient for that efficiency, which the principal public School of such a city as Montreal should attain; and should its reduction be forced on the Board as a necessity, it will still be greatly to be deplored.

An increase of the fee might have a tendency to narrow the advantages of the School to a smaller number of pupils, and thus to defeat its own end, and would tend in any case to exclude some from the advantages of the School.

Nor does it seem called for to adopt either of these alternatives, while it can be affirmed with truth that the School has not as yet received any free grant whatever from the Government; and that those parents who send their children to the High School are practically deprived of the advantages of the public grant for superior education, and are thrown upon the slender revenues of the University for providing for their children an education which in the case of other Schools is liberally supported by public aids.

A sum of about \$69,000 annually is given nominally for superior education in Lower Canada; but it will be easy to show in the first place that this sum is only in small part actually distributed for this purpose, and that of the sum really given for superior education the High School has not received any part as a free grant.

We may state as indisputable principles with respect to a grant