

Lieutenant Governor to Secretary of State.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, QUEBEC, 2nd May, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your despatch, dated the 18th April last (No. 1888) on the subject of the Act 49-50 Victoria, Chapter 39, passed by the Legislature of Quebec, and intituled: An Act to authorize certain Corporations and Institutions to lend and invest moneys in this Province."

The observations of the Honorable the Minister of Justice will receive the attention of my Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L. R. MASSON,

Lieutenant Governor.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State, Ottawa.

Chancellor of McGill University to Sir John A. Macdonald.

MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, 23rd May, 1887.

DEAR SIR,—I regret to have for the first time, as Chancellor of the McGill University, to call your attention to an encroachment on the Educational rights of the Protestants of the Province of Quebec in which this University as well as other Educational Institutions is deeply interested.

Hitherto the guarantees given to the University under the Union Act have been in the main respected, so far as educational legislation is concerned; but recently Acts of the Legislature, ostensibly referring to professional bodies, have been introduced which seriously curtail our privileges.

More especially the Bar Act, passed in 1886 (49 and 50 Victoria, Cap. 34, Section 49) gives certain large educational powers to the Council of the Bar, a body in which Protestants necessarily constitute a small minority. Being in a professional Act, these did not at first attract the attention of educators, but regulations issued under them threaten to interfere with general education as carried on in Protestant institutions, and also more directly with the professional education provided by our Faculties of Law, in such a manner as to place Protestant students in a position of disadvantage not experienced before Confederation, and which inflicts upon the Protestant population of Quebec disabilities of a very serious character, more especially when placed in comparison with the privileges enjoyed by the Roman Catholic minority in the Province of Ontario.

Objection was at once taken to these regulations, and efforts were made to obtain remedial legislation in the last Session of the Provincial Legislature; but though the leading men both of the Government and Opposition expressed themselves as favorable to our claims, and though the two Protestant Universities, and the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction concurred in urging the necessity of immediate attention to the subject, yet owing to the shortness of the Session, and other causes, no relief was obtained; and before the Legislature can again meet we shall have entered on another educational year, and shall without doubt experience serious injury.

In these circumstances, as the Act in question remains under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government at least until the 15th day of June next, we beg respectfully to ask that it be disallowed, or if that course is not seen expedient, we beg leave to enter an appeal under the Act of Union against its operation;—and we feel it our duty to take all available steps to protect our Universities and other educational institutions against serious injury that will be inflicted upon them in the meantime should the objectionable legislation complained of continue in force.