

intituled, "*An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada,*" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That each of the parties applying according to the provisions of the said Act, shall be entitled to have a Separate School in each ward, or in two or more wards united, as said party or parties shall judge expedient, in each City or Town in Upper Canada; Provided always, that each such School in its establishment and operations shall be subject to all the conditions and obligations, and entitled to all the advantages imposed and conferred upon Separate Schools by the said nineteenth Section of the said Act.

No. 35. Official Regulations, &c., adopted by the Council of Public Instruction on the 5th day of August, 1850.

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SECTION 5. Constitution and Government of Schools in respect to religious and moral instruction.*

As christianity is the basis of our whole system of elementary education, that principle should pervade it throughout; where it cannot be carried out in Mixed Schools to the satisfaction of both Roman Catholics and Protestants, the law provides for the establishment of Separate Schools; and the Common School Act, 14th Section, securing individual right as well as recognizing christianity, provides, "That in any Model or Common School established under this Act, no child shall be required to read or study in or from any religious book, or to join in any exercise of devotion or religion, which shall be objected to by his or her parents or guardians; Provided always, that within this limitation, pupils shall be allowed to receive such religious instruction as their parents or guardians shall desire, according to the general regulations, which shall be provided according to law."

In the section of the Act thus quoted, the principle of religious instruction in the Schools is recognized, the restriction within which it is to be given is stated, and the exclusive right of each parent and guardian on the subject is secured, without any interposition from Trustees, Superintendents, or the Government itself.

The Common School being a day, and not a boarding School, rules arising from domestic relations and duties are not required; and as the pupils are under the care of their parents and guardians on Sabbaths, no regulations are called for in respect to their attendance at public worship.

In regard to the nature and extent of the daily religious exercises of the School, and the special religious instruction given to pupils, the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada makes the following regulations and recommendations:

1. The public religious exercises of each School shall be a matter of mutual voluntary arrangement between the Trustees and Teacher; and it shall be a matter of mutual voluntary arrangement between the Teacher and parent or guardian of each pupil, as to whether he shall hear such pupil recite from the scriptures or catechism, or other summary of religious doctrine and duty of the persuasion of such parent or guardian. Such recitations, however, are not to interfere with the regular exercises of the School.

2. But the principles of religion and morality should be inculcated upon all the pupils of the School. What the Commissioners of national education in Ireland state as existing in Schools under their charge, should characterize the instruction given in each School in Upper Canada.

The Commissioners state, that "in the National Schools, the importance of religion is constantly impressed upon the minds of children, through the works calculated to promote good principles and fill the heart with love for religion, but which are so com-

* Referred in the Correspondence, Letter V.