

THE SCHOOLS QUESTION.

It is not yet settled, but is shifting from Manitoba to Quebec.

In the Prairie Province it is practically a dead issue. The hierarchy may rage, and a well known Archbishop imagine such a vain thing as the control of education once more in his hands. He may establish a few separate schools, as has been already done; but the people, both Protestant and Catholic, who want their children fitted for life, can now laugh at this puny attempt to stay their progress, and echo Sir John's oft quoted "you cannot check Manitoba."

But the schools question is not at rest. Its storm centre is coming East. A few months since some good people feared that if Protestants insisted upon equal rights in Manitoba, the Catholics would take revenge by increasing the disabilities of Protestants in Quebec.

The Manitoba question has certainly had its effect in Quebec, but in an opposite direction. The campaign of education in connection with the Manitoba Schools has increased the dissatisfaction of the French with their own schools, and emboldened them to give expression to that dissatisfaction as never before. They are beginning to agitate, not against Protestants, but for some of the liberties which Protestants claim as their right; and here too, as in Manitoba, the question will not rest until it rests in right, and a free people have control of the education of their young, and of all else to which free men have a right, and the priesthood take their proper place, not as lords over the people in things temporal and spiritual, but as advisers and helpers and examples to win them to truth and goodness.

A New Departure.

On Thanksgiving morning, a leading Montreal Daily, came in, and eyes opened wide with wonder and pleasure. Across the top of the first page, in large but tasteful headlines was,—“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise;” while the first article, nearly filling the first column of the first page was the 104th Psalm, a meditation on the Majesty and Providence of God. There was no pietistic cant, but a simple, plain acknowledgement of God, to which Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, could alike say, Amen.

The prophet tells of a good time coming when upon the bells of the horses shall be “Holiness to the Lord;” life's work and joy telling of Him and making music to His will. Such tokens, in so far as they indicate any change in the aims and character of a secular press, are to be hailed with thankfulness as signs of a better day.

Our Home Work.

At Grand Mere, on the St. Maurice River, north of Three Rivers, P.Q., where there are large pulp mills, the English Protestants have worshipped in an upper room. A few weeks since a neat little church was opened; another monument to the benefit of Home Missions; and another beacon light in the Province of Quebec. May it shine.

The “Gratitude” Brotherhood.

Rev. P. M. Morrison, of Halifax, acknowledges a gift of \$200 from “Gratitude,” his other name unknown, for Home Missions. A great many of us should belong to the Gratitude family, for our mercies are legion, and the best family badge is that which shews itself by works.

The Funds, East.

The Receipts to 1st December, as compared with the corresponding date last year, are as follows:—

	1 to 30 Nov. 1895.	To 30 Nov. 1896.
For Missions.. . . .	\$11,279	\$13,735
Home Missions... . .	2,511	4,169
Augmentation	856	1,083
College..	4,652	4,775
Bursary..	456	382
Col. Library..	71	94
Aged Minister's.	1,533	1,218

More self-supporting Congregations.

From the very interesting statement on another page, it will be seen that twenty congregations, in the Western Section of the Church, that have been receiving aid from the Augmentation Fund, became self supporting last year, enabling the Augmentation Committee to take up twenty new fields and nurse them to self-support; while the twenty that have just graduated not only cease to get aid, but became helpers of the Church, both in Home and Foreign Work. In such a record of growth we have every encouragement to liberally and heartily support this Scheme.

More College Openings.

Our Theological Colleges open in pairs, except Manitoba, which with prairie freedom is a law unto itself, and runs in summer. Knox and Montreal opened 7th October, and Queen's and Halifax, on November, 2nd and 4th respectively.

Whether it is that the two former are more “advanced” by a month; or give, by so much, a fuller training; or whether the latter can put more work into shorter compass, deponent sayeth not. Nor is there need to say. All are doing so well that our young men can get as good a training at home as abroad. Like many a “poor but pious” family, there is no lack of teaching or learners, but a little larger income could well be used. The Colleges are doing well the work entrusted to them by our Church; let support be in keeping.

