

Montréal; 8vo., 58 pp., double columns. Published at the *Pays office*.

GIROUARD.—*Etude sur l'Acte concernant la Faillite*, 1864, par Désiré Girouard; 103 pp., large 8vo., double columns. Published at the office of l'Union Nationale.

TABLEAU des délais fixés dans la procédure du Bas-Canada; Plinguet & Laplante, Publishers, Montreal; 1864.—8vo., 19 pp.

NOTICE sur la vie et la mort de M. Michel Prévost, prêtre du Séminaire de St. Sulpice, Cure d'Office de Montréal; 12mo., 126 pp. With a portrait.

DAWSON.—On some Points of the History and Prospects of Protestant Education in Lower Canada; A Lecture delivered by Principal Dawson before the Association of Teachers in connection with the McGill Normal School. 20 p. Montreal, J. C. Beckett.

The first part of this interesting lecture is a sketch from a Protestant point of view of the history of education in Lower Canada. The subject is so much involved with the political history of Lower Canada that any review of it would carry us far beyond the limits of our usual notices. Having reached the period of our history which has elapsed since the union of the two Canadas, the learned professor thus expresses himself.

"Under the union of the Canadas, a new school law, the germ of that still existing, was passed. At first there was hope, in this as in other respects, that the union of the Canadas would prove a real fusion into one nationality; but the old disintegrating forces again prevailed; and as early as 1845 the educational union was finally dissolved by act of parliament, and the educational interests of the British population of Lower Canada, were left at the disposal of the French majority with only such checks as might result from the influence of the Upper Canadian members of the Legislature.

"Still a great impulse had been given; and since 1841 a school system has been developed, which, if not perfect, is still highly creditable, when we take into consideration its youth and the difficulties of diversity of race and creed with which it has had to struggle.

"The appointment of a Superintendent of Education and the praiseworthy efforts of the present Superintendent and his predecessor, the formation of a Council of Public Instruction, the labours of the Inspectors of Schools, the introduction of assessment for the support of education, the establishment of Provincial Normal Schools, the publication of Journals of Education, and a multitude of minor improvements, have given a new character to the elementary instruction; while the growth of the institutions of superior education has also been rapid.

"In regard to the British and Protestant education, it may, without any invidious comparison, be affirmed that it has maintained its ground, and that the love of education, and a desire for its promotion have been steadily advancing. Our Universities have a standard of education which may challenge comparison with any in America and that of Montreal has, with little provincial aid, attained a growth which in many respects places it the first in British America. Our superior and common schools, though from causes incident to our position and a minority, they have not attained to the development of the public schools of Upper Canada, have done even more than those of that country, in proportion to the public support which they have received. We have in the main, sustained intact that great principle of union in non-sectarian schools, with which our predecessors began in 1787, and without which we should have succumbed altogether before the dominant race and creed. By steady and persevering effort, amid difficulties and sacrifices unknown to the highly endowed institutions of the majority here, and to our more fortunate countrymen in Upper Canada, we have sustained the cause of British and Protestant education in Lower Canada, and have thus done much to preserve and extend British influence in this country, as well as to aid our countrymen of French origin in their educational progress.

"We now stand on the brink of a new revolution, and should be prepared carefully to review the history of the past and to profit by its lessons, bearing in mind our weakness as a minority, and the extreme rapidity with which the most important changes are carried into effect in this country."

The lecturer then examines the several proposals which have been made to guarantee the rights of Protestants under the new federal constitution. It will be seen that on one important point he takes a different view from those expressed by Professor Miles of Lennoxville, whose able essay on the same subject is to be found in

another part of our columns. We copy this part of Dr. Dawson's lecture.

"It is proposed that we should demand a separate Protestant Superintendent and Council of Public Instruction, the latter to represent, as fairly as may be, the leading Protestant denominations. The ground for this demand is not any dissatisfaction with the administration of educational affairs by the present Superintendent. On the contrary, I believe it will be admitted that under his management, education has made substantial advances, and the defects of the existing system have been greatly modified, or have been at least smoothed over in such a manner as to rob them of many obnoxious features. But this circumstance makes us all the more uneasy. The power now wielded with tact and firmness, and under the government of United Canada, may produce the most opposite effects, under an officer of different character, and without the checks and encouragements afforded by the existing union.

"I confess that under the present constitution, I should doubt as to a division of the Department of Education. It would cause additional expense. It might produce contentions between the departments. The Superintendent of the minority might be a man of little influence, and inferior in all respects to the man who could be secured for the larger office. Without underrating these evils, I still think that, under the new constitution at least, we are bound to demand this change, as giving the only security possible for the unfettered development of our Protestant schools. While linked in any way to the system of the majority, our system will be cramped in its development, it will lack unity, and it will be unable to watch effectually the interests of the smaller Protestant communities, a matter of much importance even to the existence of these communities. It will also want that distinctiveness which alone can give it any share of the sympathy of our countrymen in other parts of British America. Without a separate Council the minority cannot form a united body, capable of discussing its own plans and of advocating its own interests, and causes of complaint which the department cannot effectually redress will continually arise.

"It may be said that minorities have no such rights anywhere, and that the minority in Upper Canada will claim similar privileges. We can urge in reply, that if a cordon is to be drawn around the French nationality in Lower Canada, the English within that pale have a right to a similar protection; and that this is not a mere question of greater and less numbers, but of the maintenance of British education in a province of the British Empire."

## MONTHLY SUMMARY.

### EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The *Gazette de l'Allemagne du Nord* gives the following information, extracted from the report of the Minister of Public Worship on the condition of elementary education in Prussia from 1850 to 1861.

There were in Prussia at the end of 1861, 24,763 primary public schools, conducted by 33,617 male, and 1755 female teachers. Although the rural population was only a little over that of the towns (viz., 12,867,368 souls), the number of primary schools in the country was about seven times greater (21,828 against 2935). A large number of children in the towns frequented the "middle schools." The number of children bound to attend school out of a population of 18,476,000, was 3,090,294,—or 17 to every 100 inhabitants. Of this number, 2,875,836—namely, 1,775,888 Protestants, 1,063,805 Catholics, 30,053 Jews and 6090 dissenters—attended the public schools, and 84,021, the private primary schools, which gave a total of 2,659,857 children actually attending school. The remainder (130,437) furnished the attendance at the "middle schools," so that a very small number were exempted.

The average salaries of teachers in Berlin, male and female, were of 413 thalers (1050 fr.) and of the teachers in the rural districts 281 thalers (680 fr.). The school fees amounted to about two sevenths of the salaries paid, the balance being obtained from endowments, and municipal and state grants.

The total expenditure for primary schools was 9,902,696 thalers (about 37 millions of francs), of which 438,928 thalers (about 1,600,000 fr.) were supplied by the state.—*Moniteur*.