

Confederation made each Province autonomous in almost every particular but Education. The famous Section 93 of the British North America Act was intended as a safeguard to maintain the rights of both Roman Catholics and Protestants, as the minorities in the respective Provinces.

Again, in order to satisfy the legitimate demands of the Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec under Confederation, legislation of a satisfactory kind was promised, immediately following Confederation; and to fulfil this promise an Education Bill was introduced and became law in 1869, providing the safeguards deemed requisite under the new circumstances. The Act, then passed, has been since amended, but the principle has been maintained: that Roman Catholic Education should be under the control of Roman Catholics, and Protestant Education should be under the control of Protestants. The dissentient system remained unchanged, but great changes had to be made in the administration of Superior Education. The Council of Public Instruction was increased in number, separated into two great Committees—the one Roman Catholic, the other Protestant, with power given to each to exercise the same powers in regard to the schools of their own faith, as were exercised by the Council as a whole. There were to be in the Council, not only the whole Ecclesiastical Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church of the Province, *ex-officio*, but an equal number of Roman Catholic laymen; and the Protestant section was to consist of a membership equal in number to the Roman Catholic laymen in the Council, together with five associate members elected by the Protestant Committee to assist them in their labours. These latter exercised the full powers of the laymen in their Committee, but were not to be members of the Council.

In addition, the Association of Protes-

tant Teachers are authorized by the Legislature to elect one of their body an Additional Associate Member. To each Committee thus constituted was committed all the powers conferred on the Council, the whole however subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The Council and each Committee thereof is entirely non-political, and receives no remuneration for the services rendered.

Dr. Heneker then proceeded to speak of the religious instruction given in the Public Schools. Each Committee has the right to make such regulations, in relation to the work committed to them, as they may deem to be necessary, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council; and such regulations have the force of law. Among these regulations of the Protestant Committee are the following briefly stated, viz.:

Religious instruction shall be given in all the Public Schools.

Every Protestant School shall be opened each day with the reading of a portion of the Holy Scriptures, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

In all grades of Public Schools, the first half-hour of each day shall be devoted to the opening exercises above mentioned and to instructions in Morals and Scripture History,

No denominational teaching shall be given.

The Protestant Committee have also recently framed a new "Course of Study" for religious instruction, which is now in the hands of all the Protestant Teachers in the Province—recognizing that the Bible is an authorized Text-book.

The Course of Study is classified under three divisions, viz.:

1st. The New Testament Course—covering the whole history of the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2nd. The Old Testament Course—covering all the historical portion of the Bible.