

the reports, both of the majority and of the Dissentients, be received at the Education Office. Now it sometimes happens that the latter neglect to transmit their returns, and as it is absolutely out of the question to compel the majority to wait for an indefinite space of time in the expectation that the dissentients may find leisure to attend to their duty, the only practical solution of the difficulty that has offered was the transferring of the local grant to the majority, subject to the condition of paying over the Dissentients' share on receiving the necessary instructions from the Department, which would of course be issued afterwards if a return were received. Thus it will be seen that if the Dissentients have met with difficulties or delays, they have none to blame but themselves. The Department, in fact, has been so indulgent as to pay, in advance, the sums to which the Dissentients were entitled in such cases, out of the following semi-annual grant accruing to the School Commissioners when the money had been retained by the latter. Such has been the case with Catholic as well as with Protestant Dissentients; and Mr. Burrowes, of Lachute, was remarkably unfortunate in his statement that "where Protestants were in the minority they had to receive their money through the secretary of the majority, while in St. Andrews, with a Protestant majority, the minority drew their grant direct from the Superintendent of Education." The fact is that Protestant as well as Catholic Dissentients draw their share of the grant direct from the Superintendent whenever they send in their returns within a reasonable time; and as to the Catholic Dissentients of St. Andrews, they not having sent in their return in due time for the second half year of 1862, the whole grant was paid to the Protestant School Commissioners on the 22nd January, 1863, which is precisely the reverse of the statement made by Mr. Burrowes.

The next grievance alluded to in the Report is that "Protestant schools are examined by Roman Catholic Inspectors who do not understand the English language, and who cannot therefore make correct reports concerning them, though desirous to be impartial; and that sometimes rewards are given (to Protestant children we suppose) connected with the Roman Catholic faith."

For every one who knows something of Lower Canada, it is easy to see that with a mixed population like ours, and with Protestant schools scattered at great distances from each other in Catholic districts, and *vice versa*, it is almost impossible that the schools belonging to one religious section of the community should not sometimes be visited by Inspectors of a different religious persuasion.

The first division of districts was made to secure to all large sections of the Protestant community the advantage of having Inspectors of their own faith, and every thing that has been done since was with a view of extending that principle as far as possible. It is thus that when Inspector Hubbard was appointed, on the demise of the late Mr. Childs, the Protestant schools of the Townships of Chester Tingwick, Kingsey, and Durham (in the district of Mr. Bourgeois) were confided to him; the Dissentients of St. Foy, near Quebec, were also, at their own request, placed under