

promise that he would reconsider the claim, if a fresh return were made, it was withdrawn, and the new returns were accordingly made. Having, however, given up all hope of redress, and conceiving there was no remedy, if the sections of the Act might be so construed, but such as the united efforts of the Protestant inhabitants of the Province could effect by an amendment of the Act, they had ceased to comply with its requisitions, seeing in it nothing but a splendid public deception; so that when they had made the return afresh, the Superintendent turned round upon them and stated, that the Act could not have a retro-active effect, and that as the Commissioners had now spent all the School Funds in their hands, and the Dissentients had since neglected to make the returns in proper time, there was now no remedy—though he admitted an allowance should have been made for their children. A further and more aggravated circumstance, connected with this case, occurred, which equally shows how this jesuitically worded Act may be misconstrued, in almost any way. The Dissentients had in their School, or Academy, several children of parents in Montreal and other places, for whom they made a return and claim, on what they deemed a fair construction of the clauses of the 29th section, which the Superintendent threw out because he construes the clause to apply to Schools in the same Municipality only.

Here, then, are a number of intelligent Protestant inhabitants of a country Municipality, anxious to give their children the best education they can procure, and equally anxious to extend its benefits to others, at some extra expense to themselves, excluded by the arbitrary misconstruction of several ambiguously worded sections of this Act to promote the cause of education, wronged and oppressed by those whom the Act empowers to promote its apparently beneficial objects, and obliged to give up the employment of their own teachers, and submit to the imperfect provision of the School Commissioners. It has been well remarked, that "the welfare of a people is less promoted by good laws, than by the justice, disinterestedness, and