

majority of the R. C. schools, under the denominational system, were inefficient. That is a very small part of the case, and there may be reasons explanatory, to which he has not even referred. It is evident, from what we have seen in Principal Grant's letters and public reports, that some of the Protestant or public schools are also inefficient. The whole case, as regards the racial, social, religious, material, and economical condition of the people of Manitoba has to be put before the people of Canada, before they, in Parliament assembled, have the moral right to legislate on the subject. The highest court in the Empire has decided that there is a grievance. We must know the exact nature and extent of the grievance, and how it can be remedied with least damage to other interests, before we move in the matter.

Montreal's Finances.

The Finance Committee of the City Council has, so to speak, been sweating blood lately. It had to face the question of the deficit; and how to meet it without cutting down the running expenses, increasing the taxation on the regular taxpayers who have been bled white already, or increasing the borrowing power of the city which has been fixed at \$25,000,000 by the Legislature, and has now been reached. The bulk of the aldermen would undoubtedly prefer to increase the debt and shift the settlement on posterity; but the sensible citizens and business men know that that way bankruptcy lies and are so determined in their opposition that they would probably defeat such a proposition if submitted to the Legislature as they did last year. The Finance Committee, in consequence, has had to look to other avenues for an escape from present difficulties; and, after much consideration, has prepared a scheme which, if approved by the City Council, will go to the Legislature for ratification. It is drastic in its provisions, involving, as it does, the abolition of exemptions in favour of religious and educational properties.

The Exemption Right.

The exemption right has been grossly abused in Montreal in favour of institutions and property, actually commercial in their nature, but wearing a benevolent cloak. The details of the scheme have not been made public; and it is not known how far it goes, but it can certainly go a long way without doing any injustice to those on whose behalf exemptions can be properly asked. But it is certain to raise a furious storm; for Privilege never yields an inch of ground without protest. It will be fought in the City Council, of course; and if it survives the gauntlet there, it will go to Quebec, where it will no doubt be promptly killed. The Provincial Legislature is a Bourbon one, and is said to be wedded to foggism of every description, and that it is practically impossible to get anything passed through it that aims at righting a wrong. We hope, however, that this is not the case, and that Montreal may before long succeed in getting out of the financial slough in which it is now so deeply fixed.

Unwise Legislation.

Every one knows that the Tammany ring recently received a check, at the hands of Dr. Parkhurst and his friends in New York, which would probably be the beginning of a much purer and more honest civic government in New York. But alas! the reformers, not contented with what they had achieved, proceeded to carry out a system of root-and-branch reform in the city, which reminds us of Savonarola and the Puritans. According to the law of New York, all the saloons are to be closed during the whole of the Lord's Day. According to the practice of New York, most of them have

been as good or as bad as open. But the new reformers determined to make the law effectual, and in particular, that no beer should be sold on Sunday. And this in a city in which one-third of the population are Germans. What was the result? "The Germans revolted, the rougher voters revolted, the non-Puritan section of the Democrats revolted, and it is believed that in the November elections, Tammany, the most corrupt of modern caucuses, will recover its power." So says The Spectator. Will men ever learn wisdom? You cannot enforce unreasonable laws, or if you do so, the consequences will be every way injurious and mischievous. It would almost appear that the herculean labours of the reformers will be thrown away; and what that means for New York may be guessed by those who read some of the chapters in Professor Bryce's American Commonwealth.

The Pope and the Religious Congress.

Some persons were startled at the readiness which some of the Roman Catholic clergy took part at the Congress of Religions at Chicago, and in the recent Congress at Toronto. It was quite understood to be in accordance with the recent policy of the Roman Church to descend into the arena instead of standing aloof from the controversies of the day. And, on the whole, there can be no doubt that the clergy of that Church commended themselves to the general public by their action and utterances. Without in the least compromising their own position, they met their brethren of other communions on terms of social and civil equality, and said their say with much skill and power. It now appears doubtful whether these proceedings can be sanctioned at Rome. At least such would be the inference from the recent papal pronouncement on the subject. Yet we are not quite sure how far the disapproval of His Holiness extends. Certainly *Roma locuta est*; but we cannot add with full assurance, *Causa finita est*. There are always loopholes in these counsels and commands. Very probably the Pope means to tell his children that he has his eye on them, and they must be careful. One thing is tolerably certain, that when the supreme Papa makes known his exact wish and will, his children will obey.

An Ancient Manuscript.

When a woman sets her mind to do a thing she does it thoroughly. The recovery of the ancient Syriac manuscript of the Gospels is a case in point. Mrs. Lewis and her sister, Mrs. Gibson, determined to visit Mount Sinai. They learned photography and studied Syriac. They got letters of introduction and stormed the library of the Monastery of St. Catherine on that Holy Mount. There they found an amiable librarian almost as obliging as our own Mr. Bain, who showed them all the treasures. These they photographed. When they got back to England they showed their treasures to what we call here "experts." It was found that they had got something very important—no less than a manuscript of the Gospels written in Syriac and in a date not far from the times of the very Apostles. Another journey to Mount Sinai was decided upon. Again the kind librarian was interviewed, once more the treasures were displayed, and this time Mrs. Lewis gave true evidence of her woman's wit. Like the lady in the poem of "The Well of St. Keyne," who took a bottle to church, she took a bottle to the monastery. It contained a fluid which restores faded writing on manuscripts and of which she had learned by enquiring at the British Museum. The use of this fluid was entirely successful. The manuscript was copied, and the result is now in England being worked up. The exact age of the writing is not known, nor the exact value of the discovery, but an exceedingly ancient and scarce probably unique, Syriac copy of the Gospels has been unearthed. No man would have thought of that plan of