

Rev. Mr. *Parant*, (St. Jean, Port Joli.) The law has ceased to be in operation for several years.

Rev. Mr. *Laroque*, (St. Johns.) "Since I received from the committee appointed to enquire into the state of elementary education, a series of questions, accompanied by a letter from the Secretary of the Committee, requiring the answer to be directed to the Chairman of that Committee, it has been impossible for me to pay attention to the matter and to give my answer. If the Chairman had not been an old acquaintance of mine, and in consequence entitled to special attention on my part, I would certainly have determined upon not giving any answer to these questions as well as to the letter that accompanied them. If you will take the trouble of examining some of the questions and particularly those which terminate the series, you will at once perceive that there would be some danger for me as well as for any other *cure* of seriously wounding certain officers of the School Law, if we had to declare against them or against the utility of the office they may have to fulfil. This reason will suffice, I hope, sir, to make you understand why I shall content myself with addressing you the present as my answer, as I do not believe that I am rigorously bound to give another in conformity to the desire of the Committee."

Rev. Mr. *Mignault*, (Chambly.) Satisfied.

Rev. Mr. *Bernier*, (St. Anselme de Lauzon.) Content.

Rev. Mr. *Racine*, (St. Joseph de Beauce.) Pretty well.

Rev. Mr. *Tardif*, (St. Pierre, Isle d'Orleans.) Pretty well.

Rev. Mr. *Langevin*, (St. Claire.) Pretty well.

Rev. Mr. *Destroismaisons*, (St. Francois.) No.

Rev. Mr. *Trudel*, (St. Isidore.) I think it would not become me to establish myself as a censor of these officers by answering certain questions.

Rev. Mr. *Cloutier*, (Cacouna.) The causes which retard instruction are the want of money to procure better educated teachers, the want of books, maps, paper, &c., and in a word the want of assiduity in the children in attending the schools regularly.

Rev. Mr. *Leduc*, (St. Joachim.) Yes.

Rev. Mr. *Bégin*, (Rivière Ouelle.) Since the last six months of 1849, the schools have only worked voluntarily, and contrary to the 4th clause of the 12th Vict., chap. 50.

Rev. Mr. *Charland*, (St. Clément.) Refuses to answer, because he says that it is not within his province to watch over the officers appointed by the Government to make the school laws work.

Rev. Mr. *Chartier*, (St. Gilles.) We are beginning.

Rev. Mr. *Gingras*, (St. Bazile.) I do not think so.

Rev. Mr. *Gingras*, (Percé.) My opinion is that the school laws will never work here.

Rev. Mr. *Desjardins*, (Grande Rivière.) The system does not work.

Rev. Mr. *Gagnon*, (Chicoutimi.) No.

Rev. Mr. *Dostie*, (St. Stanislas.) Certainly not.

Rev. Mr. *Gariépy*, (St. Anne.) I cannot say.

Rev. Mr. *Suzor*, (St. Christophe.) Not at all.

Rev. Mr. *Clément*, (St. Urbain.) I cannot answer on that head.

Rev. Mr. *Hébert*, (Kamouraska.) No, not altogether; from the incapacity of the teachers for many years, bad choice made of Commissioners who are either interested merchants or ignorant farmers, enemies to education.

Rev. Mr. *Côté*, (St. Geneviève de Batiscan.) Yes if we wish to avail ourselves of it.

Rev. Mr. *Kyroutac*, (Cap de la Magdeleine.) The school system works but very slowly; the causes which among others retard instruction are the want of education in the Commissioners,—the small salary allowed the teachers.