

which we desire at our own expense; and if all legal powers and privileges are refused to us, can at least cherish enlightenment and sound culture for their own sakes, and from the conviction that they will in the end be profitable even in an economic sense. Hitherto the English population of Montreal has, in effect, done this, more especially with reference to education in arts, and it has been its pride that it has established institutions to which even the students of the other provinces and of the United States have found it profitable to resort. The burden is, I know, a heavy one, but we may in a short time be called on to make further sacrifices to maintain the right of our children to a thorough and advanced professional training. As one who has endeavored to draw out Protestant liberality in favor of education, I would say here that I deeply feel how much in this respect the citizens of Montreal have cheerfully borne, but I believe the English people of this Province, even if left alone and unsupported, are able to sustain their educational systems till the time shall come, as it surely must, when the majority of our fellow-citizens shall, like the great nation from which they have sprung, abandon their present system of education and adopt one more akin to ours. I have no fear as to this result. Our cause is that of God and humanity. No means or effort devoted to it will be without their reward; and however repressed now, it will surely prevail.

I have spoken frankly on these subjects, perhaps some may think too frankly. My excuses must be:—First, that changes of a most serious character are hurrying upon us, which will require forethought and firmness on the part of all who earnestly desire the welfare of Canada; and secondly, the feeling of a man who has devoted much of his life to the attainment of great objects beneficial to his country, rather than to himself, and whose remaining time is now all too short to finish his life's work well, even if unchecked by unnecessary and unfair obstruction. I have no fear, however, for the future. I believe that the good work which has been done will live, and that those who endeavor to thwart it might as well set themselves in opposition to the great forces of nature itself. They may endeavor to dam up our great river and to prevent it from pursuing its course to the sea, and from carrying to us on its bosom the wealth of the