

trammelled, and certain important privileges with reference to practice were conceded to the professional degrees.

Since Confederation, the power of educational legislation has been wholly in the hands of the Provincial Legislature, with only the restriction that it has no right to withdraw from the English and Protestant minority such privileges as it possessed before Confederation. For some years this guarantee was respected, and it has not been directly infringed. But recently excessive and arbitrary powers have been given to some of the public bodies representing the several professions, whereby they may exercise complete control over the professional courses of the universities, and may, if so disposed, practically destroy the educational institutions of the minority. It is also understood that similar powers are desired by other professional bodies. I refer only to the minority, because as the great majority of the professional men have been educated in the Catholic colleges, these institutions and the professional education connected with them may be considered comparatively free from attack.

In effect, the tendency of recent legislation in this Province has been to destroy the guarantees of the minority indirectly, by conferring powers not possessed by the Legislature itself on irresponsible professional bodies which, though they bear different names, we may designate as professional boards or councils.

I do not propose to enter at length here into the discussion of these grievances, but desire emphatically to state my conviction :

1. That the system of education, general and professional, pursued by this University is that required for the interest of the English and Protestant population of this Province, though different in many of its details from that in use among the majority of our people.

2. That no benefit can result to this Province from the extirpation of the English system of education.

3. That the measures recently pursued and tending to this result are contrary to the guarantees given at the time of Confederation and unjust to a very important section of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province.

If we turn now to the essential elements of the question before us, we shall find that these resolve themselves into two portions :