

nies and soliciting signatures to a resignation of the members in mass. The effect was the withdrawal from the INSTITUT of 150 members at one time, and the foundation of the *Institut Canadien-Français*, with the view of taking away from the INSTITUT those who had personal sympathies with the 150 retiring members, but had objections to put themselves under the exclusive tutorship of the clergy.

Since 1858, the French-Canadian young men, who had almost all enrolled under the banner of the INSTITUT CANADIEN have been divided among that Institution, the Cercle Littéraire, the Union Catholique and the Institut Canadien-Français, the latter receiving from the gentlemen of the Seminary an annual contribution for its support.

The INSTITUT CANADIEN could not but gradually lose some of its efficiency under the active and unceasing persecutions of the clergy, and the rivalry of so many institutions, supported by rich corporations.

Efforts were made to show to the clergy that the only ground on which they avowedly persecuted the INSTITUT CANADIEN, namely, the pretended immorality of their books, was unfounded. A deputation waited upon the Bishop of Montreal with a catalogue of their books, offering to purge their library of any books that should be indicated to them as being immoral. His Lordship kept that catalogue six months before him, and when the deputation went back to have an answer, His Lordship returned it without indicating a single work as being immoral.

Notwithstanding that proof of good will, the Bishop maintained the pastoral prohibition and religious penalties he had decreed against the members of the INSTITUT, which consist in the refusal of sacraments even *in articulo mortis*, and a threat of refusal to bury any one dying a member, in a catholic cemetery.

Many members of the clergy acknowledge the justice of the cause of the remaining members of the INSTITUT; but they are obliged to submit to the dictates of their superiors, and they continue to enforce the penalties imposed by the Pastoral letter of the year 1858.

By the concerted action of the clergy and of the three rival literary institutions above mentioned, the number of the