

The Catholics are largely in the majority in the province of Quebec, consequently the system of separate schools, in that province, is almost entirely in favor of Protestants who are well satisfied with it. When the delegates of Red River went to Ottawa, asking for the establishment of a province which would cover the whole of the Northwest, the majority of the inhabitants of the intended province were Catholics, so it was a proof of goodwill towards Protestants on the part of the framers of the Bill of Rights in asking for separate schools, and if the majority had continued to be Catholic, the old and new Protestant settlers would find the provision very wise and very convenient, and no one would think of showering abuse on me or those who, like myself, think that what was agreed ought to be faithfully adhered to. The "Don Quixotes" in this matter are not with us, and I hasten to say that you are not with them.

A GREATER MARVEL.

Sometimes it turns out that a great, a greater, the greatest marvel is no marvel at all; such is the case with the one revealed in the "Sun" of the 10th inst. By the by, I hope it is not the insertion of that marvel which has choked the journal just the day after it published it. At all events, here is the marvel expressed; your bill contained in its 20th clause; that there should be no increase in the tariff for three years; "my bill" as published in the Free Press of the 27th December, did not mention the same demand, and yet the Act of Manitoba, clause 27th provided for it. There is the marvel and here comes my explanation, which is very simple. The sheet containing the 20th article disappeared from the files which I have in my possession, and that very likely, owing to the little importance I attached to the demand. I say I attached little importance to the demand because I knew that it had been granted previous to the departure of the delegates, and here is how I prove it. On the 16th of February, 1870, Sir John A. Macdonald

wrote and gave me a letter in Ottawa. With that letter, as I have already stated, I succeeded to determine the delegates to proceed to the Capital of the Dominion. In the same letter was the following paragraph: "You are authorized to state that the two years, during which the present tariff shall remain undisturbed, will commence from the 1st January, 1871, instead of last January, as first proposed." (Report, page 19.) In my estimation the demand became a useless one; I therefore attached less importance to the paper which contained it, and very injudiciously, it is true, I lost sight of it.

Now, in turn, I will say, "will any one in his sense maintain" that it is a marvel to lose in the course of 20 years, a piece of paper which contained a demand already granted by an official document, under the signature of the Premier of Canada when that document has been printed and reprinted again in the blue books. At all events, my omission is provided for by Rev. Mr. Ritchot's testimony and in his own notes, which I keep to the service of anyone desiring to satisfy himself on this point.

This explanation must dispel the marvelous mist surrounding an omission of little consequence. The history of Manitoba would be more in harmony with the brightness of the atmosphere of our dear province if it was studied under its true light and outside of the dark cloud of prejudices too often exhibited in lectures delivered before a large or small gathering of our Historical Society. I venture this remark because I know that you really love our country and its old inhabitants, and that you listen with pleasure to unbiased information and explanations.

In this conviction I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

ALEX., ARCH. OF ST. BONIFACE.
O. M. I.

St. Boniface, 13 Jan., 1890.