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THE SCHOOL QUESTION IN MANITOBA.

PRIOR to the 1st July, 1867 (*Dominion Day*), Canada consisted of two provinces, legislatively united under one parliament. One of these, Upper Canada, was largely English and Protestant; the other, Lower Canada, was predominantly French and Catholic. Prior to this date, and as the result of a long and bitter struggle, Catholics had obtained, in complete measure, the right to separate schools in the English province—schools supported by government grant and municipal taxes in the same way as other schools. On the other hand, Protestants had, without difficulty, procured, in the French province, the establishment of Protestant schools. The year 1863 saw the close of all controversy and the acceptance of this situation by almost every one. The separate school question was answered and forever buried in Canada.

Dominion Day inaugurated a new era in Canadian history. The Confederation Act added two other provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (neither of which had a separate school system sanctioned by law); it changed the names Upper Canada and Lower Canada to Ontario and Quebec; it established a federal parliament at Ottawa and a local legislature in each province; it relegated certain subjects of jurisdiction to the parliament and assigned others to the legislatures, awarding to them also any residue; it made various provisions for the everlasting interment of certain nasty questions, involving racial and religious antipathies, which had vexed the earlier politicians; and the separate school question's obsequies were finally, and with much thankfulness, performed—"positively the last appearance."

Its troublesome ghost was laid in this fashion: The local legislatures are to have jurisdiction with reference to education, but not absolute jurisdiction. In Ontario and Quebec the Catholics and Protestants have certain rights. These shall not be infringed upon; to that extent the legislatures shall be impotent. If in these provinces, at any future time, the religious minority shall, by legislation, obtain any further rights or privileges, or if, in the other two provinces, a separate school system shall, in the future, be established; and if, in either of these cases, legislation be subsequently passed affecting any rights or privileges thus obtained, then an appeal from such legislation shall lie on the part of the minority to the federal authorities. We do not mean to say that these plain words were made use of in the laying process. On the contrary,