

"In order that the public may be satisfied upon the question of examination of teachers under the old system, I make Mr. Armour a proposal. I have placed in the hands of the Editor of *The Week* an envelope, in which there are two sets of examination papers, for first-class certificates; one of which was given to Roman Catholic, and one to Protestant, applicants. Mr. Armour may open the envelope, if he will agree that, after reading the papers, he will give his opinions on two points: (1) Which is the hardest set of papers? and (2) Were they, or was either of them, sufficient for an examination for first class certificate? In order to remove the operation of Mr. Armour's bias, I have eliminated such questions as would enable him to detect the authorship of the papers. There are plenty left whereby to estimate merit."

Needless to say my challenge was not taken up. A few questions taken "at random" were, no doubt, a very much more satisfactory test of excellence, than fair comparison of the papers themselves.

### Resulting Illiteracy.

After having dealt with the character of the earlier examination papers, Mr. Wade proceeds under the heading "Resulting Illiteracy." He seems to argue that, inasmuch as many of the half-breeds are illiterate, therefore the Catholic schools were inefficient. But why does he not argue that, therefore the Protestant schools were inefficient? Doubtless he will say because those half-breeds never went to the Protestant schools. But if that relieves the Protestant schools, then why will not the statement, that they never went to the Catholic schools, relieve those schools also? If Mr. Wade can select a single half-breed who attended a Catholic school, and nevertheless remained illiterate he will have some argument for his charge of inefficiency. I challenge him to do it. If he cannot then his charge must be, not that the schools were inefficient, but that the Catholics while pretending to provide schools for the young, in reality induced the young not to attend them. This would be plainly absurd. Nevertheless Mr. Wade says:

"The difficulty is not that the Roman Catholic Church does not provide educational institutions; it is rather that the educational institutions do not educate the people under its charge." (19)

What does he mean?—that the church provides schools, and at the same time keeps people out of them? or, that although the church provides schools, the children are not taught anything? If the former, I can only express my amazement at the stupidity of the assertion; and if the latter, I ask for one half-