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THE SCHOOL QUESTION IN LOWER CANADA.

Although the *Independent* is published in Upper Canada, it has no sectional character, but aims to deserve its name "Canadian," knowing no east or west. Were it not indeed for the prodigious length of such a title, it might be still more correctly called, "The British North American Independent," for its contributors and subscribers are drawn from all these Provinces. The Lower Canada School Question is entitled to discussion here, moreover, because the principles involved in it are of universal application, and, being there tested in circumstances so diverse from those of the sister Province, are presented in a new and most instructive light. And still further, as the advocates of national and of sectarian schools each derive arguments and justify legislative demands from what is done in the west and the east respectively, the provisions for education in either section are of the greatest interest and importance to the people of the other.

We regret that the many other demands upon our space leave us so little for this subject. It will be impossible for us to enter into the special grievances of which many Protestants in Lower Canada complain, in respect to the administration of the system by the Chief Superintendent, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau. Nor is this indeed so necessary, inasmuch as these questions have some time since been discussed with great minuteness of detail, by the daily journals of Montreal and the official *Journal of Education* for Lower Canada. But the bearing on the case of the *principles* on which a system of National Education should be conducted, it is possible briefly to discuss, in the common interest of United Canada.

The School System of Upper Canada is founded on a few simple principles which make it in the fullest sense, public, national, and unsectarian. They are, that the law shall *require* no religious worship or instruction to be conducted by teachers, but shall *allow* the trustees of each school-section to arrange with their own teachers for such exercises, provided always that no child shall be required to attend them without his parent's or guardian's consent; that the books used in the Public Schools, while generally recog-