

PROFESSOR HICKS' REPORT.

I am again able, at the close of another year, to report favourably of the Model Schools of the Colonial Church and School Society in Montreal. They are still carried on with vigour, and are daily increasing in usefulness. In estimating the value of this, it must be taken into consideration the time they have been in operation. It is now nearly 10 years ago since a small room in St. Joseph Street was hired by the Committee, for the purpose of commencing a school where teachers might obtain an insight into the most approved methods of teaching, and where sound scriptural instruction might be given to the little ones placed under the care of the Society.

The day upon which the schools were opened found but few present, and after prayer for the success of our undertaking, by the superintendent the Rev. W. Bond, the work went steadily on. A few months served to fill our available space, and it then became evident that if we were anxious to make the most of the opportunity vouchsafed to us by the Almighty, exertions must be made by the Committee to secure buildings specially adapted to the work in hand. It would be useless to recapitulate how this was done; it may be sufficient to state, that at great personal risk, the superintendent secured the building which we now occupy, and that our success since then has been a subject of great thankfulness. My object in alluding to this now is to prepare the way for bringing before the committee a matter which must in the end materially affect the welfare of our schools. The building, which was erected some years ago, and to which valuable additions have since been made, answers in every respect the end intended. It is to the interior arrangements that I more particularly desire to call the attention of the Committee. Ten years of wear and tear, in educating a daily attendance of between three and four hundred children, have so defaced our desks, and worn out our maps and apparatus, that the aid of the Committee becomes to a great degree a matter of necessity. In speaking of this I must not forget to state, that every care has been taken by those in charge of the schools, to prevent any injury from carelessness, and that an inspection of the rooms and furniture will bear testimony to the good state of discipline which has at all times existed, and also to the fact that time alone and constant daily use have led to the need of new school apparatus.

The Committee must also bear in mind how large a number of young persons have during a long period passed through the schools of the Society; and many who are now usefully engaged in important posts in the mercantile affairs of Montreal, will bear witness to the usefulness of materials, which served to aid in training them for the positions which they now hold in life. A great point to be aimed at in school-keeping