

does that imply that you are guaranteed exemption from paying for public or State schools? And the answer is that the 1871 Act legislators either did not consider that, or else that they did indeed consider it, but meant "to keep the word of promise to our ear, and break it to our hope."

For a plain man the meaning would probably be plain that it *did* so imply. Certainly, when the declarations of the legislators were read, with no word in them as to the legally established "separate-school parent" being bound to pay also as a "non-sectarian parent," and when is added the consensus of general public understanding as to implication, then the plain man would feel sure.

So much for the spirit of the law. But what of its letter? We shall see.

However, first, *des pièces justificatives* :

(a) "I think every man in the country understood the Manitoba Act of 1871 to mean that the minority, whether it was Catholic or Protestant, should enjoy the same privileges as the Catholic minority enjoys in Quebec. [The Privy Council did not appear to see the matter in that light. I have no doubt they came to an honest decision, but they went by the strict letter of the law.]" (Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, December 19, 1895.)

(b) "By the Manitoba Act the provisions of the B. N. A. Act respecting laws passed for the protection of minorities in educational matters are made applicable to Manitoba. . . . Obviously, therefore, the separate school system in Manitoba is beyond the reach of the [Manitoba] Legislature or of the Dominion Parliament."

(The Late Sir John Macdonald [Conservative] Prime Minister of Canada, and a framer of the Manitoba Act. *Memoirs*, vol. ii., p. 248.)

(c) "We [when passing the Manitoba Act] certainly intended that the Catholics of Manitoba, or whatever denomination might be in a minority, should have the right to establish and maintain their own schools. You see, the words '*or practice*' were inserted in the Manitoba Act, so that the difficulty which arose in New Brunswick when separate schools actually existed, but were not recognized by the law, should not be repeated in Manitoba. [And thus the right of appeal to the Federal Parliament was given to make assurances doubly (*sic*) sure.]"

(Hon. W. MacDougall, 1892.)

(d) "Because it was doubtful whether the schools of Manitoba could be said to exist by law. . . . The clause was made to read, by law *or practice*, in order that the minority might be absolutely sure of protection. [We who were members of the Government at the time could see no reasonable objection to granting the same privileges in Manitoba that were given in Ontario and Quebec.]"

(The late Sir Leonard Tilley, Governor of New Brunswick. "The Sun," St. John, N. B., April 28 (?) 1896.)

But now, after this Act of 1871, and before 1890, there came immigrants,

"strange men, new faces, other minds";

and all was changed. The Catholics, as has been said, fell from 50 per cent. to 15 per cent. ; and so another "asylum of Papists