

teacher instructing the children exclusively in doctrines of a particular denomination, or using the prayers or books, or daily teaching the catechism peculiar to such denomination, confer any legal right or privilege on any class of persons with respect to denominational schools, or give the denomination whose tenets may have been so taught in any such schools, rights or privileges other than those possessed by all and every the humblest inhabitant of the Parish in which such school existed, free and independent of all denominational connection?

It is not by what the Board of Education, Superintendent, Inspectors or Trustees may have done or allowed to be done under the Act, nor is it from the mode in which the principles of Christianity may have been actually practically taught in one or a hundred schools which may have drawn public money under the Parish School Act, that the question in a legal view must be determined; we must look to the Law as it was at the time of the Union, and by that, and that alone, be governed. Where then do we find any legal exclusive right or privilege conferred on any denomination to any school established or that might be established under that Act; or any right or privilege conferred on any class of persons to deal with such a school as belonging to such persons as a class or denomination; or as being under their control as such; or that as a class they had any right to have taught therein, the peculiar doctrines of their denomination? The assumption that the character or status of the school could be legally altered or affected, or rights gained by reason of the religious opinions or feelings of the inhabitants of the District, or a majority of them, because in such a case Trustees and a School Committee might perchance be elected from a particular denomination, and so that then the school might be made denominational, is in our opinion entirely erroneous. To the Board of Education is entrusted the controlling, governing power. By those rules and regulations, made and ordained within the letter and spirit of the Act, must all acts under them be controlled and governed, wholly independent of the religious opinions of the electors of the District, or of the Trustees elected by them. It appears to us, then, that in passing the Parish School Act, the Legislature contemplated a general system of Education for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the Province, without reference to class or creed; that such schools were to be organized, regulated and governed by public bodies, not owing their existence to, or being in any way under the control of any class or denomination; that the Act made no provision for any schools established thereunder being denominational, and did not provide that any sect or denomination whatever, as such, was in any such schools to have control or precedence, nor in any way give or recognize any right in any class of persons to have in the schools established thereunder, the doctrines, precepts or tenets of their denomination taught as part of the system of instruction, or to have such schools in any other respect denominational in their character. That with reference to religion, the Act simply recognized the duty of impressing on the minds of the pupils the general principles of christianity, honesty, &c., common alike to all christians; and simply required to be secured by regulation the reading of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, accepted by all christians as the basis of their faith, securing always to the Roman Catholics the use, when read by Roman Catholic children, if required by their parents, the version recognized by their Church, but without note or comment; but at the same time, with the greatest apparent caution and scrupulous care, lest the religious principles of any should be interfered with, providing that even with respect to the inculcating the principles of christianity, morality, &c., as indicated, no pupil should be required to read or study in or from any religious book, or join in any act of devotion, objected to by his parents or guardians. And so, even with respect to the reading of the Bible, it is to be secured only to those children whose parents and guardians do not object. If, then, the establishment of denominational schools,