

rial notices of Rev. John Campbell, of Sherbrooke, and of Dr. Geddie, of Ancientum, in the New Hebrides. These were accepted, and ordered to be engrossed. Rev. E. Ross addressed the Throne of Grace in connection with these dispensations of Divine Providence.

Agreed that the Clerk forward a copy of this Minute to the respective families.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The following Report was submitted by Rev. C. B. Pitblado:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Your Committee feel that in presenting their Report they should call special attention to the insidious and persistent efforts of the Church of Rome against free education. Whilst she pretends to be the friend, she is in reality the inveterate foe of public schools. Her ostensible policy is to encourage the education of the people, but her real policy is to establish and maintain a tyrannical priest craft. Her educational institutions, however much learning and refinement they may contain, are little better than schools of superstition. She has an educational system which has produced the most baneful results in every country and community where it has prevailed. She educates not to quicken but to paralyse the intellect, not to enlighten, but to enslave the conscience, not to benefit the people, but to secure power for the priest. Her whole history, in every country over which she has acquired power proves beyond dispute that her educational system does not tend to the emancipation and elevation of men, but to their mental and moral enslavement and degradation. She pretends to be a friend of education in order that she may thereby disarm opposition against her treacherous designs. Her aim is to secure the control of the educational institutions of the world and subvert them to her own purposes. To gain her object she works with unflinching zeal and unscrupulous energy. She takes care to let the pressure of her direct political power be felt on the legislation of every free country where she has any influence. No where does she work harder and more persistently to control and mould legislation than in our own country; and, we believe, that the question, whether the priests or the people constitutionally are to rule, is the practical issue which will finally fix the destinies of this Dominion. Roman Catholic supremacy means for us, and every nation subjected to it—political corruption and national imbecility. Rome will if she can

build up her power on the ruins of the free school system of the Maritime Provinces.

During the past winter a bold and unscrupulous attempt was made—no doubt at the instigation of the hierarchy of Rome—to overthrow the free school system of New Brunswick. The Local Legislature of that Province found it necessary to pass an amendment to their school law for the purpose of rendering it effective. Without such an amendment the law of New Brunswick would have been to a very large extent inoperative. The Roman Catholics knowing this fact opposed the measure with all their might, but were defeated. The measure was shown to be absolutely necessary for the working of the law and by the highest legal authorities of the country it was declared to be perfectly constitutional according to the federal compact upon which the Dominion was formed. This, however, did not satisfy the Church of Rome. Priestly influence was used to get the House of Commons of this Dominion to interfere in the matter. A motion was introduced into the House of Commons the purport of which was to force the government to advise the Governor General to disallow the amendment which had been constitutionally passed in the Local Legislature of New Brunswick from going into effect. To follow the course pointed out by this motion, your Committee felt would be a gross invasion of federal rights as well as a death blow to our free school system. We consequently met and prepared a protest against the action of the majority in the House of Commons who voted for Mr. Costigan's motion. We remonstrated against the motion on the ground that it was unconstitutional as well as detrimental to the interests of education. It advised a course which was revolutionary in its character and an open violation of our educational rights. This protest was forwarded to the premier of Canada; and a reply acknowledging its receipt has been received.

The Brethren in New Brunswick connected with the Committee prepared and published a circular on the subject which was no doubt very effectual in awakening the public mind.

For the present the difficulty is tided over; but the end is not yet. The Governor General has not disallowed the amendment referred to, but the constitutional point is to be carried before the Privy Council of Great Britain. No doubt that before this tribunal the law will be sustained, but Rome will not be stilled, she will struggle for the victory by some other methods, and we cannot be too watchful of her machinations. Your Committee fear that unless the Protestants of the Maritime Provinces act more unitedly and determinedly the servants of Rome will triumph in the de-