

of five and sixteen years of age who receive no instruction whatever,"—a sufficiently melancholy statement.

The statistics of education in Montreal and Quebec are interesting, but the Report warns us that their strict accuracy cannot be relied on. In Montreal, the Protestant college and schools contained in 1856, 3379 pupils. The majority of these schools were private adventures, receiving no aid from the public funds. In the same year, the Roman Catholic colleges and schools of Montreal had 6769 pupils. Of these pupils the vast majority were boys in the "Friars' Schools," and girls taught by the Nuns of the Congregation of Notre Dame. The Protestant statistics of Quebec seem to be carelessly taken. There is a general return of 3014 pupils under instruction; but if this be accurate, the return from Montreal must be considerably beneath the truth. There cannot be a doubt that the Protestants of the latter city are more numerous by at least fifty per cent. than those of the former. The Roman Catholic schools of Quebec (as well as Montreal) were visited by the Superintendent in person, and found to contain 5176 pupils.

One of the more pleasing features of the educational system of Canada East is the prosperity of the Normal Schools instituted in the year 1856. The McGill Normal School, at the close of its session a few weeks ago, furnished forty new teachers, trained for their work, and now ready to enter on engagements. With two exceptions, these are all young women; it being very difficult to induce young men of intelligence and ambition in this country to devote themselves to a profession so shabbily remunerated as that of school-teaching. The Jacques Cartier Normal School has also closed its session, and sends out thirteen trained teachers. These are all males, and French Canadians—the institution not receiving any females. The Laval Normal School at Quebec trains teachers of both sexes; but the number who have completed their course in the present year we are unable to ascertain.

We shall not weary our readers with further details; and merely add a few sentences on the feeling of Lower Canada Protestants toward the system of Public Instruction as now in operation. It cannot be concealed that their feeling is one of half-smothered suspicion and dissatisfaction. Believing the Superintendent and the great majority of the Inspectors to be zealous Romanists, and observing that they diligently court the favor and consult the pleasure of the Bishops and Priests, the Protestants dislike the whole tone and aspect of the department, as bent on strengthening and perpetuating the ecclesiastical control of the Lower Canada population by the Church of Rome, and treating those who are not within the pale of that church with scant justice and barren courtesy. Confident of his influence, the Popish Bishop Bourget of Montreal actually presumes, in a recent pastoral letter, to warn the School Commissioners, under pain of excommunication, not to harbor or permit to be read any books written by heretics or not sanctioned by the Church. Many influential Protestants, we are aware, are so much dissatisfied with the past and present *regime* that they are anxious to obtain a formal separation of the Protestant educational interests of Canada East from the Roman Catholic, and the appointment of a distinct Protestant Superintendent.

To such a course, however, there are serious objections on the score of public policy—objections which it is unnecessary now to mention. Our own impression is, that, at least for the present, the Lower Canada Protestants ought not to agitate for a rupture of the present system, but to show their superior enlightenment in largely multiplying and liberally sustaining their own colleges and schools; at the same time maintaining a strict and vigilant eye on the conduct of the Department of Public Instruction, and on the equity and impartiality of the Hon. Superintendent. It is also an obvious right to claim the appointment