



"AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

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HON. J. J. CURRAN

ON THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

The Solicitor-General Gives a Masterly Exposition of the Important Subject—"The People of Canada Would Uphold a Government that Stood Out for Good Faith and the Respect of the Pledged Word of the Dominion."

The honorable gentleman spoke as follows at Sydney, C. B. :

The Manitoba school question, of which so much had been said, ought to be one of great simplicity. It was not, in so far as the Parliament of Canada is concerned, a religious question in any sense. It was not a question as to whether one system of schools was preferable to another. Those who were called upon to vote in this respect were not supposed in any way to deal with the merits and demerits of the separate school system. The whole question was whether the rights of the minority in Manitoba under the Manitoba act were to be respected and held inviolate. To talk of coercion of the majority or the desire to impose upon the province a system of schools repugnant to any section of the community was rank rubbish. The 22nd section of the Manitoba act gave certain powers regarding education to the Legislature of the province and imposed certain restrictions upon that Legislature. It was simply a question to-day whether the constitution was to be upheld, and whether the privileges secured to the minority, privileges most likely at that time to be secured to a Protestant minority, as that body of Christians was actually in the minority in the province at the time the act was passed, were to be maintained; or if those matters that had been declared by the highest tribunal in the Empire a parliamentary compact, were to be treated as waste paper and cast to the winds. The constitutional question could not be evaded, it could not be lightly treated, it could not be ignored with impunity; because the Catholic minority of Manitoba stood nearly in the same position as the Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec, and as the one was treated so there was a possibility of the other being dealt with. When the Manitoba school act of 1890 was enacted the Catholics, who had then become the minority, protested against it. The schools which they had enjoyed for nineteen years had been abolished, their school-houses had been handed over to the public schools, their taxes were applied to the public school system, and every privilege that they had enjoyed from a short time after the province was incorporated with the Dominion had been swept away. Under these circumstances the case of Barrett vs. the Queen was placed before the court for adjudication, as to whether any law or practice in force at the time of the passing of the Manitoba act of 1870 had been infringed upon. The Supreme court of Canada had unanimously held that this school law was ultra vires. The Privy Council of Her Majesty reversed the decision.

Mr. Laurier says that the policy of the Dominion Government in dealing with this question was cowardly and shifting. A man with his so-called policy requires to have a great deal of audacity to accuse any one of cowardice, but if cowardice it be, then

NO MAN IN THIS COUNTRY IS MORE RESPONSIBLE

for the action of the Government all through this matter than Mr. Laurier himself. He impugns not only the Government of Canada, but he casts the charge of cowardice upon the greatest leader the Liberal party has had in Canada, the Hon. Edward Blake, and it would not take long to prove that assertion. Whilst the case of Barrett vs. the Queen was pending, Mr. Blake, foreseeing that if the case went against the pretensions of the minority there would still remain the appeal to his Excellency-in-council with reference to privileges acquired under the sub-section of section 22 of the Manitoba act relative to rights acquired since the union with Canada, proposed the following resolution :

"That it is expedient to provide means whereby, on solemn occasions touching the exercise of the power of

disallowance, or of the appellate power as to educational legislation, important questions of law or fact may be referred by the executive to a high judicial tribunal for hearing and consideration, in such mode that the authorities and parties interested may be represented and that a reasoned opinion may be obtained for the information of the executive."

In support of that resolution Mr. Blake made one of the most able and remarkable speeches ever delivered in the House of Commons. He pointed out that he not only referred to questions of "ultra vires" legislation, but to the question of appeal to the Governor-General-in-Council by a minority claiming to have a grievance. Let us take his own words so that there may be no misunderstanding :—

"My opinion is, that whenever, in opposition to the continued view of a provincial executive and legislature, it is contemplated by the Dominion executive to disallow a provincial act because it is ultra vires, there ought to be a reference; and also that there ought to be a reference in certain cases where the condition of public opinion renders expedient a solution of legal problems, dissociated from those elements of passion and expediency which are, rightly or wrongly, too often attributed to the action of political bodies. And again, I for my part, would recommend such a reference in all cases of educational appeal, cases which necessarily evoke the feelings to which I have alluded, and to one of which, I am frank to say, my present motion is mainly due."

And having thus defined the extent of his object in covering both the "ultra vires" and the appeal to his Excellency-in-council on the grounds of grievance from an undue interference by a province with rights acquired under the second branch of the educational clause of the act, Mr. Blake was particularly careful to indicate what were his reasons for adopting such a course. He felt the necessity of avoiding political action in a country like ours, with a population made up of such different elements, elements divided by race and by creed and by language. Can there be any doubt of his intention when we consider the following words used by him in that speech. He said :

"But sir, besides the positive gain of obtaining the best guidance, there are other and, in my opinion, not unimportant gains besides. Ours is a popular government; and when burning questions arise inflaming the public mind, when agitation is rife as to the political action of the executive or the legislature—which action is to be based on legal questions, obviously beyond the grasp of the people at large—when the people are on such questions divided by cries of creed and race; then I maintain that a great public good is attainable by the submission of such legal questions to legal tribunals with all the customary securities for a sound judgment; and whose decision, passionless and dignified, accepted by each of us as binding in our own affairs, involving fortune, freedom, honor, life itself, are most likely to be accepted by us all in questions of public concern."

If we understand the English language surely there was no other meaning to be given to those words of the Hon. Edward Blake than that if he had to decide upon a course of action, seeing the condition of the country, he would decide

SUCH A BURNING QUESTION

in the light of the interpretation given to our constitution by the highest tribunal in the land. And, further, he warned the party in power that he was acting in their interest in bringing forward such a resolution, in these solemn words :

"I have an absolute confidence that, if my proposal should be declined, the first persons to regret that decision will be hon. gentlemen opposite. My opinion is, that this is a proposal eminently helpful to the executive of the country at this time; but it is eminently helpful to them, because it is eminently helpful to the good government of this country, and it is in this spirit that I move the amendment which I now submit to the judgment of the House."

That resolution was adopted by the House of Commons of Canada without a dissenting voice. Mr. Laurier was present; he accepted that resolution with all its consequences, and never uttered a word of protest; he acquiesced in it,

and in acquiescing in it he acquiesced in what had been adopted by the Liberal-Conservative party of Canada. Mr. Dalton McCarthy acquiesced in that resolution and with every member of the House stood bound by it. But they were told that in accepting that resolution Sir John A. Macdonald had made several reservations. That he had insisted that in every instance, whether the Government of the day acted upon or rejected the opinion of Her Majesty's Privy Council, they must still bear the responsibility of their action. That was true. No government can divest itself of its responsibility for the administration of every law upon the statute book. Speaking of that responsibility, and the care with which the resolution of Mr. Blake had been prepared, Sir John A. Macdonald had used these words to define his exact position :

"Such a decision is only for the information of the Government. The executive is not relieved from any responsibility because of any answer being given by the tribunal. If the executive were to be relieved of any such responsibility, I should consider that a fatal blot in the proposition of my hon. friend. I believe in responsible government. I believe in the responsibility of the executive. But the answer of the tribunal will be simply for the information of the Government. The Government may dissent from that decision, and it may be their duty to do so if they differ from the conclusion to which the court has come."

The responsibility of the Government remains and they may be called upon to dissent from the decision of the most august tribunal "if they differ from the conclusion to which the court has come."

Who differs from the decision of the Privy Council in this instance? The Government does not differ. Mr. Laurier does not differ, Mr. Dalton McCarthy does not differ. The Privy Council has declared that it is impossible to come to any other conclusion than that the minority in Manitoba have had their rights interfered with. What could the Government then do but call upon the Legislature of Manitoba to remedy the grievance? Mr. Laurier may go back upon his vote upon the Blake resolution. Mr. Dalton McCarthy may say : "This is a wrong and the statute has provided a remedy, but do not apply the remedy," but the people of Canada who love justice will not stand any such doctrine.

THE POSITION OF MR. BLAKE

has been demonstrated, the position of Sir John A. Macdonald has been proved. What was the position of Sir John Thompson upon this question? At the very formation of his government he went with his colleagues to Toronto, and at a public meeting there, in the presence of thousands in one of the public halls, he made a statement of the policy of his party. Before resuming his seat he was called upon to speak on the Manitoba school question. He declared that his Government would stand by the constitution, and amidst the ringing cheers of the multitude he declared that the appeal of the minority in Manitoba would be referred to the highest tribunal; and if the decision went against the majority that majority would have to submit, and if it went against the minority they would have to abide by the consequences. (Cheers.) Later on when Messrs. Laurier, McCarthy and Tarte joined in a vote of non-confidence in Sir John Thompson's Government, because the appeal of the minority to the Governor-General-in-Council had been referred for adjudication as to the right of his Excellency-in-council to deal with the matter after the decision in the Barrett case, Sir John Thompson was taunted by the member for L'Islet with being afraid to announce the policy of the Government in advance of the decision of the Privy Council. Sir John Thompson said :

"When the questions which surround her case have been decided by the courts, there will be no suspicion on the part of that province that either from religious or political antipathy or sympathy her legislation has been interfered with or her rights invaded; and when the hon. member for L'Islet challenges me, as he surely had no right to challenge me, to state in advance what the policy of the Government would be if such and so should happen, I tell him that the answer I

can give now and the answer I shall be able to give him, if that event should happen, would be this, that the Province of Manitoba is a constitutional province, and whether it shall be in the hands of legislators opposed to us, or in the hands of legislators in sympathy with us, we have every reason to believe and to rest assured that she will obey the dictates of the highest tribunal in this Empire, as to what constitution is, regardless of consequences, regardless even of the displeasure of the majority if the decision should be against the majority; and that so far as the disposal of this appeal is concerned at any rate, the minority must bow to that decision and the federal executive will advise his Excellency accordingly."

Was that language plain enough? Was there any cowardice in that declaration? The present Government is the successor of Sir John Thompson's administration. They have inherited his traditions, they have declared for his views upon this momentous question. They are bound to stand or fall by the constitution as expounded by the highest court in the Empire, and above all they are bound to respect Parliamentary compacts. The Privy Council, in the reasons they were bound by the statutes to give for the opinion they expressed, declared that the 22nd section of the Manitoba act was "in truth a parliamentary compact." The people of Canada would uphold a Government that stood out for good faith, and the respect of the pledged word of the Dominion. (Cheers.) Mr. Laurier seems to suggest that, this matter being one of fact, as he says, there should be an investigation—some sort of a commission. The Privy Council had decided the question of fact when it held that the minority had a grievance. If Mr. Laurier was not satisfied with the decision of the Privy Council, he had the statement of Mr. Martin, his own colleague and supporter, the author of this law, who had declared it tyrannical. If that did not satisfy him let him refer to the words of Mr. Hugh J. Macdonald, son of the late chieftain, the former member for Winnipeg, who stated in Parliament : "Whatever we may think of the advisability of maintaining the system of separate schools or establishing a system of neutral schools in Manitoba, the manner in which the separate school system in Manitoba was abolished

WAS BRUTAL AND BARBAROUS BUTCHERY."

The question of a grievance has been settled beyond dispute, and to suppose that Mr. Greenway, who despises and repudiates the judgment of the Privy Council, would respect the finding of a Royal commission, is simply preposterous. The Liberal-Conservative party are not responsible for this wretched question being thrust into the political arena. For twenty years they governed Manitoba, respecting the rights of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects. It was the Liberal party that trampled upon the rights of the minority, and when or where has Mr. Laurier appealed to his friend and adherent and co-Liberal, Mr. Greenway, to undo the wrong he has perpetrated? (Cheers.) If Mr. Laurier were a patriotic man he would join hands with the Liberal-Conservatives in maintaining and enforcing the constitution. The Government have called upon the Legislature of Manitoba to do justice in the premises. Every good citizen hopes they may settle the question on the basis of justice within their own Legislature, but should they fail to do so the Parliament of Canada will not shirk its duty, and remedial legislation will be carried by an overwhelming majority. Their honored guest had stated that in Nova Scotia the day of bigotry had passed and that his province was a land of fair play to all. He could tell them that in the Province of Quebec no public man would dare to propose a law that would inflict an injury on or infringe upon a right or privilege of the Protestant minority without being driven into obscurity. (Cheers.) Let them read the admirable speech of Hon. Mr. Blake, M. P., on this subject and see what a Protestant representative had to say as to tolerance in the Province of Quebec. No party, Liberal or Conservative, in the province, would lay a sacrilegious hand upon the constitutional privileges of the minority in the slightest degree, and he felt that the fair play that held good there was in

favor with the great majority of the Canadian people. They wished to prosper at home, but they desired to be respected abroad as well, as people who respected covenants and would not tolerate the existence of grievances in any section of the country, no matter how weak the minority might be. Our people wished to preserve and hand to their children the proud name that they inherited from their ancestors, and to make of Canada not only a great country and a prosperous one, but a land of peace and happiness, the home of a brave and generous people who loved justice and were determined to see it done.

The hon. Gentleman resumed his seat amid loud cheers.—North Sydney Herald.

GRAND DEMONSTRATION

Of Catholics at Balgonie, N. W. T.—His Grace Visits the German Settlement—Impressive Reception—Address Presented and Eloquent Reply.

BALGONIE, Sept. 10.—His Grace Archbishop Langevin held confirmation services here to-day before a vast assemblage of people from here and the surrounding country. The good people so zealous in all matters religious had spared no pains in making this the first archiepiscopal visit of His Grace, the event of the season. What added to the interest of the occasion was the fact that the week previous our new pastor, the Rev. Father Zerbach, had begun his labors amongst us, having come to reside permanently in our midst. This was indeed a great consolation to our people, he being the first priest they have had whose mother tongue was their own—the German. His Grace arrived from the east on the morning train attended by Rev. Father Belliveau, of St. Boniface, being joined at the station by Rev. Fathers Roy, of Qu'Appelle, and Sinnett, of Regina. A mounted escort of young men from St. Joseph's met the party at the station from whence they were conveyed in a coach and four to the church, a long procession of the people having marched out meanwhile to meet them, bearing banners and crucifix. The scene was indeed impressive, and shows the deep respect and devotion which the people have for their chief pastor. His Grace paid a graceful compliment to the reception which was accorded him, saying that he felt deeply moved by the strong religious sentiment expressed and that in it he recognized the fervent faith of their fatherland. After High Mass which was celebrated by Rev. Father Sinnett, His Grace proceeded to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. About ninety candidates in all had been prepared for it, Rev. Father Zerbach having labored assiduously in the matter for some time previous. After the Archbishop's address to the candidates confirmed, an address of welcome written in English and German was read by Mr. P. Yonker to which His Grace feelingly replied. Following is a copy of the address :

TO HIS GRACE THE RIGHT REV. ARCHBISHOP L. P. ADELARD LANGEVIN :

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—We the German people from here and the surrounding country greet with delight your Grace on this your first official visit amongst us, and offer to you our most reverential and filial homage.

The great loss which the church, and especially the diocese of St. Boniface has sustained in the death of our late beloved Archbishop Tache; we rejoice to contemplate it has been fully repaired by the appointment of one so well able to fulfil the arduous duties which falls upon him, especially in these times of trial brought about by the destruction of Catholic schools, and our hearts have been with you and your noble predecessors in your ardent attachment to that sacred cause. Religious training it is we want in our schools, and although we have established a Catholic school here, and intend to establish two others in the near future, we regret having to say that they are Catholic in little more than name.

Situated as we are it must be quite evident to your Grace that in the past we have labored under many spiritual disadvantages, for we have been attended at intervals by priests who could not speak our language, and who, therefore, could not give us that consolation and instruction we so much desired and needed. Considering all these things it has given us great joy that your Grace has now sent to us a priest whose language is our own—the dear

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The Northwest Review

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We hope to publish next week a full report of the interesting meeting of the Catholic Truth society last Monday evening. It was remarked by many members that those who did not attend that meeting will regret their absence. Mr. F. W. Russell's paper on the past and present position of Catholics in England was not only replete with valuable information, but written in a most scholarly, thoughtful and eloquent way. While holding out ground for hope that England would one day be largely Catholic, he believed in a gradual conquest of souls rather than in any sudden and overwhelming tide of conversions.

One of the hopeful signs mentioned at this C. T. S. meeting was the revival of the "Hail Mary" among non-Catholics. There is a society of Anglicans, the League of St. Lawrence, which advocates the revival of this prayer as a necessity of our age. "It is time," they say, "to defend the faith by a practice which will raise the loyalty of Christians." They hold that the omission of the Hail Mary accounts for the denial of the virginity of Christ's mother, and for the tendency to lower the Saviour of mankind to the level of a prophet, a philosopher, a mere preacher of righteousness. The Ave Maria adds that a proper understanding of the Blessed Virgin's place in Christian worship will have the happy effect of removing many stumbling-blocks in the way of reunion with the one true church.

MR. JOHN O'DONOHUE.

The Free Press of Wednesday last, in its report of the regular monthly meeting of the school board, had the following curious item of information:—

"A motion was offered by Messrs Ross and Browne, that the chairman of the building committees be asked to make arrangements for the laying of the corner stone of the Argyll school on Thursday. MR. O'DONOHUE SUGGESTED THAT THE CORNER STONE BE LAID WITH MASONIC HONORS; but Mr. Stuart objected to this course, that it would give offence to a portion of the community. An amendment, moved by Messrs. Wade and McPherson, was carried, that there be no ceremony."

To those who, at the recent laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple, saw Mr. John O'Donohue on the platform clothed with Masonic regalia, this new announcement will cause little, if any, surprise. This gentleman seems anxious that all the world should know him to be a Freemason. But is it not edifying to note that his Protestant fellow-members are more solicitous for the good-will of the Catholic community than this "prominent Catholic?" Messrs. Stuart, Wade and McPherson, rightly

felt that it would be an offence against the Catholics of Winnipeg, and therefore impolitic at the present time, to inaugurate a public school with a rite condemned as anti-Christian by the Catholic Church.

What now becomes of Mr. John O'Donohue's claim to be a representative Catholic? How sorry a figure he now makes as the only nominal Catholic who could be persuaded to attack his co-religionists before the Privy Council at Ottawa?

We commend this incident to the careful consideration of all the Catholic press of the Dominion, not excepting "United Canada." The editor of the last named paper will surely not object to John as "more Catholic than the Pope," for, much as John professes to love the Church and seek its best interests, it is evident that he loves Masonry still more.

THE PREMIER AT THE CATHOLIC INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF ST. BONIFACE.

Last Friday, 13th inst., at about 5.30 in the afternoon, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, accompanied by the Hon. T. Mayne Daly and Mr. A. A. C. LaRiviere, M. P., visited the Industrial School for Indian youth at St. Boniface. There were present, to receive the Premier, the Rev. Father Daignault, chaplain of the institution, the Rev. Sister St. Therese and the several Sisters in charge of the Indian girls, Rev. Fathers Chartier, Cherrier, Drummond and Lajeunesse. After a few words of greeting the honored guests were conducted to the beautifully decorated reception hall, where the Indian boys and girls, drawn up in several tiers on a graded platform, sang in very good style a song of welcome. Then Albert Sinclair, a bright-looking Indian boy of twelve years old read, with remarkable distinctness and intelligence, the following address from a tastefully illuminated copy, which was afterwards presented with three charming nosegays to the Right Honorable Premier and his companions:

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA:

RIGHT HONORABLE SIR: To day our Institution resounds with joy and gladness, since its happy inmates have the honor of welcoming within its humble precincts Canada's distinguished Prime Minister, the Honorable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, with his esteemed friend, the Minister of the Interior. Yes, Honored Gentlemen, your presence in our midst is an additional proof of the condescending solicitude of our noble Government in behalf of the poor children of the Prairie. While we realize that we can never make an adequate return for the countless advantages so generously bestowed upon us, still we solicit you, Most Honorable Sir and distinguished Friend to graciously accept the feeble expression of our gratitude, with a most cordial welcome from all the inmates of our dear school. Other tongues more eloquent than ours, will worthily proclaim your talents and extoll your noble deeds. But let it be the privilege of the Indian children to pray that all the cares and anxieties attending your elevated public position, may be changed into consolation and joy, and that your administration, so auspiciously inaugurated, may form one of the most remarkable in the history of our noble land.

The children of the St. Boniface Indian Industrial School. September, 13th 1895.

During the admirable delivery of this short address Sir Mackenzie Bowell was visibly moved. As he himself afterwards remarked, "he filled right up." Rising to reply, he spoke, in a most genial and fatherly manner, substantially as follows:

REVEREND FATHERS AND SISTERS AND MY DEAR CHILDREN:

I am more than surprised, I am astonished and delighted at everything I see in this Industrial School. When Mr. Daly came on the floor of the house asking for large sums of money for the Indian schools of British Columbia and the North West, and telling of the progress that was being made in those institutions, I was a little suspicious; in fact I did not believe him; but now I see for myself, and find that the progress of the schools of all denominations, Presbyterian, Methodist, English Church and Roman Catholic is indeed wonderful. Let me tell you here that Mr. Daly is your great friend. He is, if I may use the word, a father to you. It is his duty to see that that money is granted to the Indian schools throughout British Columbia, Manitoba and the North West; to see that the money is well expended in every case, and I am sure it is not only well expended but very well invested.

My dear children, I hope you will profit well by the teaching of the good Fathers and Sisters who give their lives for the cultivation of the young. You will receive instruction that will fit you for the different walks of life and prepare you to move in respectable society. Your teachers are also giving you a knowledge that will enable you to enjoy a happy eternity.

You know, boys, you live in a country where the highest offices are in the gift of the people, and I see no reason why some of you should not occupy the same position as my friend here (Mr. Daly). I was once a small boy like you myself, and had to work as you do, often from six o'clock in the morning as late as ten, eleven and even twelve at night. In those days, Reverend Gentlemen, there were no workmen's unions to see that we only worked eight or ten hours.

I hope, then, the day is not far distant when the children of the red men, as we call them, will take their place in the front ranks with the whites. Your intellects are as good as any, whether ours be mixed with Anglo-Saxon or Celtic blood. The little boy who read the address furnishes an example that your children have intellects to compare with the brightest in the land.

Our ancestors, the English and Scotch, —I will not say anything about the Irish for fear the Reverend Father here will fall foul of me,—lived like your fathers in hovels and huts, but by cultivation they have become the first people in the world; you can do the same. I expect to see these little girls take the place of their present teachers to train up their sisters and brothers in the way of civilization. Some of you are pretty big now, and must soon leave the school. Do not go back to the old ways of the wigwam. Remember what you have been taught and practise it. Do not go back. On you depends the elevation of your race. And, boys, (I am speaking now to the older ones who will understand me) do not marry girls beneath you, girls without any education. If a man marries a woman that is coarse and ignorant, she will drag him down to her own level. On the contrary, if she is cultivated and virtuous, she will raise her husband to her own level. Another thing, never be afraid of work. In business or whatever work you engage in, look to the interest of your employer. The boy who succeeds is the one who does not mind working an hour or two after time if his employer's interest demands it. I myself began working in a printer's office when I was quite a small boy and since then I have been earning my own living. My final advice, dear children, is: Let liquor alone, boys and girls, let it alone; it is the curse of your nation as it is of ours, and like all great curses, it ought to be shunned.

Excuse me for speaking so long; but when my heart is moved, I cannot easily stop.

This school is a proof that God does not forget the first possessors of the land; and I am proud that for seventy years I have belonged to a government that has aided so generously the noble cause; for it is one of the first charities to civilize and elevate the untutored children of forest and prairie.

The Hon. Mr. Daly then added a few words of thanks to the children, congratulating them on their singing which, he said, was even better than the last time he heard them. One felt, on listening to the Minister of the Interior, that he was quite at home with his dusky wards.

Sir Mackenzie then walked around among the children. When he came to Albert Sinclair, the reader of the address, he made him a present of a bank-note, and, putting his arm around his neck, he said: "My dear little man, you must work hard to improve the talents God has given you. One day, I hope, you may become a member of Parliament, and, when you are older, they will make you a senator like myself."

The working-day being over, there was no occasion to visit the workshops; but every other part of the building was carefully inspected by the Premier, who was profuse in expressions of approval and admiration for the cleanliness and neatness everywhere apparent.

The Ottawa Separate Schools.

From the True Witness.

The report of the Commissioners appointed to examine the state of the Separate Schools of Ottawa has created considerable comment. Our readers will doubtless pardon us for adding a few more words to what we have already said in last week's issue.

As to the origin of the Commission: It appears that a motion was brought up at the Ottawa Separate School Board, to investigate certain charges said to have been made by Rev. Brother Flamian,

Visitor of the Christian Brothers of the Province of Quebec, against Inspector White, concerning the report which he gave of his official inspection of the Ottawa Separate Schools. Some members of the board, desiring a further investigation, suggested that the Ontario Minister of Education be requested to appoint a Commission to investigate the said charges, to examine the city Separate Schools, and to report thereon. The Honorable Minister of Education, G. W. Ross, L. L. D., according to the request, appointed as commissioners, Rev. J. T. Foley, Mr. D. Cheney and William Scott, B. A. The first two having resigned, were replaced by Edward Ryan, M. D., and J. J. Tilley, Esq.

On presenting themselves at some of the Brothers' Schools, the Commissioners were told that they would not be received. It appears that the orders not to receive the Commissioners came from the Assistant Superior-General, then in Montreal, and were directed, not against the Government, but against the trustees, who called for an enquiry a few weeks after the Brothers had bound themselves by a written agreement to teach the schools for a year. Besides, the Commissioners were evidently not called to vindicate the Brothers, but to condemn them. The nature of the report was, therefore, a foregone conclusion. This is evident from an item that appeared in a Toronto paper at a time when the Commissioners had barely commenced their work. The item alluded to contained in a nutshell the whole report as far as it refers to the Brothers. The report is a sweeping condemnation of the teaching of the Brothers in Ottawa, but any impartial reader can see that it is one-sided throughout. The Brothers may have been wrong in refusing to accept the Commissioners when they first presented themselves, but the Government officials should have been satisfied with the kind attention they afterwards received.

The report is unfavorable in many respects. Some classes, especially of the Brothers' Schools, gave, according to the Commission, a poor account of themselves. It seems to us quite remarkable that the Commissioners have not mentioned an important fact affecting the schools at the time, and which, in a great measure, must have been the cause that better results were not obtained. We refer to the diphtheria which for many weeks had been prevalent in some parts of the city, and which at the time of the commission was still unabated, thereby reducing the number of pupils in some classes to one-half, or even less. If the Commissioners had in view to do justice to all concerned, they should, unquestionably, have noted this drawback and made due allowance for the same in the report which they have given to the public. Another obstacle to better results, and to which the report does not allude, was that in one of the English schools quite a large proportion of the pupils were French, yet they were subjected to the same examination as the English-speaking pupils.

The schools of Ottawa may be somewhat weak in comparison with other schools in Ontario, but this may be no fault of the teachers. Here in Montreal we know what difficulties our teachers have to contend with in schools in which the two languages have to be taught side by side. An inspector of experience does not expect to find the pupils of such schools as proficient in either English or French as if only one language were taught. Nor will he be disappointed if he finds such pupils weaker in history, geography and mathematics than in schools in which the teachers and pupils have to deal with one language only.

These gentlemen of the commission express themselves surprised to find teachers not knowing English. Now, we doubt that there is even one teacher in the Catholic schools of Ottawa who does not know both languages; but the teachers referred to may have felt some bashfulness in speaking English before Ontario professors. The commissioners speak of the progress the pupils should make in six months, yet our same worthy commissioners, though they must have been studying French more or less during the whole of their high school and university courses, did not, so far as we can learn, once open their mouths to put a question in French.

As the great object of the commission was to investigate the teaching of English in French schools, let us here give some attention to the English used by the very gentlemen who composed the commission.

(See report, page 19.) "On arriving at this school the next morning, Brother Director Mark informed them, etc." Who arrived? Brother Mark or the commissioners?

(Page 21.) "The boys count their fingers." Did the boys count their fingers or on their fingers?

(Page 21.) "The boys were apparently taught nothing," etc. Is "apparently" in its proper place?

(Page 43.) "Pick out the adverbs, etc." What do the commissioners mean by "pick out"? Is it a dignified expression? (Page 43.) "Give the boundaries of the different zones and account for the position of the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle." Is "Arctic" spelled correctly?

"I have never seen his brother before." Is never properly used? Is "have seen" the correct tense?

(Page 43.) "Give three ways by which words are made to denote more than one, etc." What words? Nouns, prepositions, conjunctions or what? ["By which" should be "in which."—Ed. N. W. R.]

The commissioners say (page 33): "That the pupils were deficient in power to grasp the meanings of the questions, etc." This is not at all surprising if we judge from the above quotations.

(Page 33.) "The inadequate knowledge and the frequent mistakes of even the English-speaking teachers, showed that in many cases the literary qualifications of these teachers was not what it should be." Is "was" correct in number and tense? What noun does "it" represent? Does it agree with the noun in number?

Do the many mistakes in grammar, composition and style, throughout the report of the commissioners, show that the literary qualifications of these commissioners are what they should be? It cannot be said, in palliation of the many glaring literary blunders, that they were mere slips, since these gentlemen spent six or seven weeks at the report, had all the aid they needed from the Education Department, including the Honorable Dr. Ross himself, and had, of course, clever proof readers to see that it came from the press exactly as the press received it. Surely the commissioners themselves would be ashamed to ask the public to call their blunders slips, when we find in their whole report no excuse for the slips of either teachers or pupils, intimidated, as we might naturally suppose them to have been, by the presence of a Government Commission of examiners.

Whatever may be thought or said of the proficiency of the Ontario schools in mathematics, they must be, judging from the grammar and style of the Commissioners' report, sadly deficient in the very English a knowledge of which they flatter themselves to possess in an eminent degree.

Let our readers mark well that these gentlemen of the commission were selected from the galaxy of Ontario's literary lights, for the purpose, in part, of examining the literary attainments of others, and behold, in the report which they present to the public, the inimitable EXCELLENCE of their literary production.

Leaving this very grammatical report and its splendid literary style as a monument to the proficiency attained in English by the critics of the Ottawa schools, we desire to quote a paragraph from the last issue of the Liverpool Catholic Times on the "Collegiate Education" imparted by the Christian Brothers in the old country. We quote the following in support of our contention, expressed in our last issue, that the order throughout the whole world holds a foremost place in the ranks of educationalists, and the wholesale condemnation of the Ontario Commissioners is most unjust and malicious.

"In proportion as Ireland has lost, England has gained by the transfer to this side of the Channel of one of the foremost educationists of the Sister Islands. The placing of the established Catholic College of St. Peter and Paul at Prior Park, Bath, under the Irish Christian Brothers, besides being a remarkable recognition of their position as a teaching Order, has led to the appointment of one of their most distinguished brethren, Bro. W. A. Swan, to the presidency of that college. Brother Swan has a brilliant record. His long connection, extending over forty years, with the North Richmond-street schools, Dublin, which he raised to a very high standard of efficiency, was coincident with the later development of the admirable teaching system of the Christian Brothers, which now comprehends in addition to the elementary instruction it was primarily designed to impart to the children of the poor, an extensive higher grade education adapted to the needs of the middle classes. To the brilliant success at public competitive examinations which has followed this new departure Bro. Swan largely contributed. As a rule, the O'Connell or North Richmond-street schools headed the list at the Royal University examinations and led the way for all the other Christian schools in Ireland joining in the intermediate competition with uniformly successful results. A better selection for president of a college like Prior Park could not have been made, and we shall be much

surprised if Bro. Swan does not soon add fresh laurels to those he has already won in the educational contest. Bro. Swan, we may add, is no stranger to England, having years ago taught in London and elsewhere in this country with the same efficiency which he has always displayed.

We would advise the Hon. G. W. Ross, when next he finds it necessary to appoint a commission to investigate charges made against our Catholic separate schools, to select men who are capable of presenting a report couched in good English. The Christian Brothers are actually Christian in practice as well as in name, and we are confident that, for the sake of the gentlemen authorized to condemn their methods, they would gladly send one of their members to correct the proof-sheets and to render the precious document more presentable.

IN DEEP DESPAIR.

A MONTREALER RELATES HIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE.

He Had Tried Foreign and Local Physicians and Was Operated Upon Without Success—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Cured When All Other Medicines Failed.

From the Montreal Herald.

Instances of the marvellous cures by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are numerous, but the one related below is of special interest, owing to the peculiarity of the illness, and also to the fact that in the present instance the gentleman is well known in Montreal. Mr. Charles Frank, inspector of the mechanical department of the Bell telephone Co. at 371 Agueduct street, and who resides at 54 Argyle avenue, in an interview with a Herald reporter, related the following wonderful cure by the use of Pink Pills. Mr. Frank, who is 25 years of age, is a Russian by birth, exceedingly intelligent, speaks several languages fluently, and is now apparently in good health: "My illness came about in a peculiar way," said Mr. Frank. "Up to three years ago I was in the best of health. About that time while in Glasgow, Scotland, where I was employed as a clerk in a hotel, and while sculling on the Clyde, a storm came up and I had a pretty rough time of it for a while. I evidently must have injured myself internally, although I felt nothing wrong at the time. On my way home, however, I fell helpless on the street, and had to be conveyed home in a cab, as my legs were utterly unable to hold me up. I was confined to bed for several days in the same helpless condition, when I rallied, but found that my urine was of a strange reddish hue. I called

my urine. But I felt encouraged and got three more boxes, determined to make a thorough trial of Pink Pills. After I had finished the second box I found my urine was getting clearer, so I continued the use of the pills, taking two after each meal. When I had finished the third box my urine was quite clear, for the first time in three years. I was delighted and continued taking the pills until I had finished six boxes. I am strong now and have had no recurrence of the trouble, and as you can see, the flush of health shows itself in my face. To think that I was cured by the use of \$3.00 worth of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills after trying a number of physicians and undergoing an operation in vain is a puzzle to me, and I am sorry that I did not know about this grand medicine before. I would have given \$200 or \$300 to have been guaranteed a cure by any one."

"I am willing," said Mr. Frank, in conclusion, "to see any one who wishes to verify this interview, as I consider it a duty to my fellow-men and a matter of gratitude to the marvellous cure their medicine has effected. I have come to the conclusion that Pink Pills are the best blood builders in existence, and I think every one should try them."

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Caught in a Storm on the Clyde.

in a physician, who prescribed, but did me no good. I then called on Sir George McLeod, M. D., who also prescribed and asked me to go to the hospital. I was asked to do this, and then he advised me to try a change of climate, telling me that my bladder was affected. I acted on his suggestion as to change and came to Montreal. I did not do anything for about a year, as I wished to get cured. All this time my urine was tainted with blood, although I was suffering no pain, but this abnormal condition was a source of continual anxiety. I finally went to the General Hospital, where the physician in charge advised me to stay, which I did. After remaining there for five weeks with no benefit, a consultation of physicians was held and an operation was suggested, to which I this time agreed. After the operation was performed I was no better, my condition remained absolutely unchanged. From this out I was continually trying medicines, but derived no benefit from anything or anyone. I was in despair as the physicians who had operated on me could not decide as to my trouble. I visited the hospital once more and they said they would operate again; but I did not care to undergo a second and perhaps equally unsuccessful operation. Some physicians thought my trouble was consumption of the bladder, others that it was Bright's disease, but not one could cure the strange bloody condition of my urine.

"Finally I went to work for the Bell Telephone company, some two years ago, where I worked myself up to my present position. But I was in a state of constant anxiety, as I felt myself getting weaker all the time, and was listless, and sleepy and weak in the legs. I was also pale and ill-looking, no doubt owing to loss of blood. From a naturally cheerful man I became morose, and gave up all hopes of ultimate recovery. One Saturday, some months ago, while walking along Bleury street, having seen the advertisement of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the Montreal Herald, I stopped at John T. Lyons' drug store, and bought a box. I had tried so many medicines that I said to myself, 'If they don't cure me I can't be any worse off than before.' After taking the first box I felt stronger and more cheerful, although there was no change in the bloody condition of

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