

# MONTREAL

## COMMERCIAL REVIEW

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### THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The *True Witness* replies to the letter of Thos. Widd, deaf-mute, which appeared recently in the *Witness*, and the following are a portion of his strictures. May they stir up Protestants to take action in a matter of so much importance:

"He (Thomas Widd) complains:—

"Firstly—That, in Lower Canada, whilst there are two schools under the control of the Catholic Church for the training of the Deaf and Dumb, there is not one under Protestant control.

"But this is not the fault of Catholics. If our separated brethren are so minded, let them set up a rival institution of their own; and in so far as that will tend to improve the material condition of the Deaf and Dumb by bringing these unfortunates into contact with the outer world,—through the medium of the senses,—we shall heartily wish it God-speed, and recognize its claims to support from the public purse, in proportion to the number of its pupils.

"Secondly: our critic complains that in consequence of the want of an institution of their own, Protestant parents send their afflicted children to the Catholic institutions, wherein these children are brought up in a religion to which their natural guardians are opposed. But here again the remedy is obvious. Protestant parents are not compelled to send their children to a Catholic institution. It is morally impossible that the same teacher should inculcate Catholic principles and Protestant principles; and every religious-minded Protestant will admit that the most important object by far of a Deaf and Dumb Institution is to impart to its inmates a knowledge of religious truth, without which salvation is impossible to the adult.

"If all he aim at be this,—that Protestants are entitled to a deaf-and dumb institution of their own, treated by the State as favorably as is either of the existing Catholic institutions, he might surely make this claim without the usual vulgar abuse of his Catholic fellow-citizens; but to us it seems clear that his main object is to deprive the latter of the control over the education of their own children, and to transfer it to Protestants. To this he may be sure we will never consent.

"When Protestants shall have set up a Deaf-and-Dumb Asylum of their own, providing it with competent teachers of their own opinions, and shall have made application to the Government of the Province for pecuniary aid to enable them to carry out their philanthropic designs, then, if the Catholic press throw obstacles in their way, ridicule or misrepresent the education given in the institution, and if Catholic members of Parliament oppose the demand for public support, will it be ample time for Protestants to cry out, or to raise the cry of being unjustly treated."

### IMMIGRATION.

Forty years ago, the best grounded of all the complaints of the British against the French party in Lower Canada was that the latter systematically opposed immigration. This was

harshness and some injustice in the management of the Immigration Department since the demise of its late lamented head, Mr. McGee. That we should have a Roman Catholic head for this department is perhaps a necessity of our position, but he should be a liberal one who can rise superior to the narrow ideas of sect or race.

We subjoin an extract from the *Standard's* article:—

But the tale is not yet told. In our former reference to this subject, we abstained from alluding to certain facts which may as well be mentioned now that matters have gone so far. There is reason to believe that peculiar influences are at work at the present time in Canada. The East London emigrants are not the only parties received with disfavor on reaching the Canadian shores. The representatives of the Prussian government are remonstrating on the manner in which the Canadian authorities treat the German emigrants; and the indignation expressed in this quarter is by no means measured in its tone. The cause of all this seems to be extremely remarkable in its character. We are given to understand—and the statement is based on very good authority—that in Lower Canada, the French, especially the priests, are openly hostile to any accession to the British population, and to any introduction of the Protestant element. An emigrant who is at once an Englishman and a Protestant is looked upon by these parties almost as a natural enemy, and the use of the English language is systematically discouraged, in order that the new-comers may find it the more difficult to settle in the country. Of late this Gallic and priestly influence has been making itself more extensively felt, and hence the change which has undoubtedly come over the spirit of the immigration department. The fact may be denied; but these statements are confirmed in a manner which makes them very difficult of disbelief.

Such being the state of affairs in the Dominion, the East London committee will probably only get over one difficulty in order to be met with another. Still it is well to go on until the way is altogether blocked up, and it seems hard indeed that these fifty people who have been tantalized with the prospect of being sent out should be doomed to face the misery and degradation of another winter in Poplar. Next Christmas will probably find every one of these people suppliants for parish relief, unless in the meantime they have the opportunity of earning their bread where labor is in demand. In reference to Canada, it should be observed that there is a real demand for labor among the inland towns. There is a much better feeling towards emigrants in Upper than in Lower Canada. As an index to the existing state of things, we may quote a letter written from Toronto on the 1st of the present month by an emigrant from East London. This man, who had been in Toronto five weeks, says:—"I had only been here four hours before I got a job at five shillings per day. I thought that pretty good for a start. Now I get six shillings per day. There is plenty of work for carpenters, those that are used to work at the bench. They cannot get

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