electors of said districts to the said Board | that neighbor was a priest of the Roman of Education in the month of December, Catholic church. 1890, as to the establishing said Conventual Schools as public schools under said Acts, and protesting against the same; and also a complaint sent by Protestant parent and ratepayers to the said Board of Education at the beginning of the year 1893, with regard to the teacher placed in charge of the Grammer School in Bathurst at the beginning of that year, in consequence of which declining to act by sald Board of Education, the trustees of school districts aforesaid were allowed to act

illegally. It would seem to me, that the evidence showed that the receipt of communications and representations to the Board of Education from Protestant ratepayers of Bathurst Town and Village was always acknowledged; but it must be evident to any one who considers what the functions of the Board of Education are that the action to be taken upon such communications and repayentations, and when and how sh sh be, is a matter entirely for the exercise of the judgment and discretion of the Board of Education, and that the Government never intended to refer their report whether they had or had not properly exercised their judgment and discretion unless their action or want of action showed an infringement of the School Law and regulations, and there is no evidence to establish that, and it is not because every communication to the Board is not acted in the way or at the time that the dar des think it should be acted upon that would establish that the Board of Education had been derelict in the discharge of their duties. For any short comings of the Board of Education they are, I and to the Legislature alone.

Grading of the Schools.

(7) The seventh ground of complaint is That the grading of the schools in the said school districts has not been conducted according to law; that the trustees of said school districts, aided and influenced by the clergy of the Roman Catholic church in said districts have made an effort to compel Protestants in said school districts to send their children to the said Conventual schools, and that the religious teachers of the Roman Catholic church in said school districts were by the said trustees placed in actual charge of certain departments of the public common schools in said school districts in the year 1891, all of which was brought about in consequence of the employment of the members of the said religious teaching orders of the Roman Catholic church by the trustees aforesaid as hereinbefore set forth.

There was no evidence whatever to warrant the statement that the clergy of the Roman Catholic church in these two districts had made any effort to compel Protestants in the districts to send their children to the school rooms in the Convent buildings. It is true that in Bathurst Village two of the Sisters of Charity, licensed teachers, were placed as teachers in the public school building, but this was done at the instance of the Protestant trustee of the board of trustees. They remained but a short time, however, owing to the opposition of the parents of Protestant pupils who declined to send their children to any department in the public school

taught by a Sister of Charity. The evidence showed that in the public school building in the Town there were unoccupied rooms, and that this building would accommodate a larger number of pupils than were in actual attendance in the various school rooms of the building, but such evidence did not satisfy me that the public school building in the Town had, as was claimed, accommodation for all the school children of the district. It had not, in fact, in my opinion, such accommodation. It was urged that the cubic contents of the rooms under the regulations were sufficient to allow space for many pupils, but the cubic contents of the rooms, while, no doubt, one, is not the only criterion in determining how many children can be accommodated in the different rooms-that must depend upon a variety of circumstances, keeping in view proper grading, the number of departments, the number of school children in each grade, and other factors—the idea now being not to see how many children can be crowded into a school room, but how the comfort, convenience and health of both children and teacher can best be provided for. In this view, the public school building in the Town, the evidence shows, did not in my opinion contain all the accommodation required for the school children

It was made apparent by the evidence that large number of the Roman Catholic chil sin in attendance at the Convent school rooms both in Bathurst Town and Village rendered it difficult to have a proper and efficient grading of the schools both in the Town and Village. This was brought to the notice of Chief Superintendent Crocket, and after Dr. Inch became Chief Superintendent, under his notice. The Inspector also gave his attention to this subject of grading, and, as I Landry as a teacher was not because she have already stated, at the request of the was French, but simply as alleged that Attorey General, in 1892, (as Mr. Mersereau, the Inspector, thinks,) prepared a paper giving his ideas for the information of the Attorney General as to what he thought would be a feasible scheme for the grading of the Village schools-he could not say whether the paper he so prepared had a reference to the Town schools or not. It appeared that the grading of the schools in the Village was a very difficult matter to deal with; in fact I think it may almost serious wrong to the school children of the not belong to the district, jumped off his be taken as proved, that ideal grading, so district. But I cannot see how it could be sled, inquired what the trouble was, and change would the better enable such to speak, was almost it not quite impossi- said to be done to compel the children of then addressed himself to the Roman trustees to cut down the rights of Protestants | Protestant pupil in one of said schools was ble under any circumstances in either the Town or Village schools, but more particularly in the latter schools, as there was a existed, as it appears it did exist among the and other like expressions, and a Mr. charge as is put forward in this ground of in said school with the Roman Catholic French population in the Village, and this protestant parents, not to send their chil- Gammon also referred to them as a sneakwas an element that would have to be taken | dren to the rooms in the public school | into account in the grading.

trustees, aided and influenced by the clergy of the Roman Catholic church in the said taught by sisters, simply because a teacher on the other, as to this attempt of Mr. districts, had made an effort to compel the had been engaged in the public school Bosse to close the private school. Protestants to send their children to the building who held a class of license which Within less than an hour all Conventual schools,-I may here say once | protestant parents thought did not qualify | tor all that from the beginning of the her to teach their children. It seems fair the effects of this war of words had ceased evidence to the close of it, there was no- to say that the trustees, after they saw the to be thought of as a disturbing element thing to justify any one even thinking engagement of Miss Landry was so highly of any moment in Bathurst community. that the clergy of the Roman Cath- detrimental to the school, although she was olic church in these two districts had made engaged for a year, at the end of one term | Bosse was instigated to do what he did at | the approval of the Board of Education. any effort to compel Protestants to send induced her to resign. their children to the school rooms in the (e) That a teacher obnoxious to the of the town, and more particularly at the Convent buildings. The complaint is evi- protestant ratepayers in school district No. instance of Mr. Patrick J. Burns, a brother appended to the original draft was in my reasons why I think a teacher might not dently the production of some one who 2, (the town schools,) was placed in charge of Mr. Kennedy F. Burns; but the evi-

Was There Clerical Interference?

(8) The eighth ground of complaint is that by the action of the trustees of the said school districts, as in the statement set out, and by the neglect of the said Board of Education, as also set forth in this statement, the efficiency of the school service in said school districts has been lessened and interfered with in the following particulars :-

een employed in said districts.

(c) That such closing of the Superior and Gram-

mar Schools was done in order to make it necessary as far as possible that the children of Protestants should be compelled to attend the said Conventual schools of the Roman Catholic church, and if possible firmly establish the latter schools in said School Districts No. 2 and No. 16 (d) That a French teacher with an inferior grade of license was placed in charge of the primary department of the public school in District No. 16, at

the beginning of the year 1892, and the Protestant children were compelled either to be under such inferior French teacher or attend the said Conven-(e) That a teacher obnoxious to the Protestant ratepayers in said School District No. 2, (Town school,) was pl ced in charge of the Grammar School in the hereinbefore last mentioned school district at the beginning of the present school term, such teacher was not a Grammar School teacher, and had been previously dismissed by the said Board of

This ground of complaint with its subdivisions must have exercised to a large extent the ingenuity of Mr. Skinner and Mr. Fowler, who prepared the complaint for the Rev. Mr. Thomson, so as to incor- that the teacher to be appointed should be porate into it clerical interference through- a Protestant, and Mr. O'Brien was not, to be relegated to oblivion. out, from the beginning to the end. The though his father, John E. O'Brien was a whole complaint in this matter, permeating | Protestant. The latter was one of the apprehend responsible to the Legislature, almost every sentence of it, is an allegation trustees, and induced Michael Power, and trustees in so establishing the said conventthat everything complained of has been other trustee, to join in making the done in the interests of the Roman Cath- appointment, the other trustee, Alex. olic church; that Conventual schools have Doucett, not concurring. The appointbeen established in their interest, and that ment created intense excitement and was there has been a design from first to last on looked upon with disfavor by many Cath- the cost of maintaining schools in said the part of the Roman Catholic clergy of olics. Though the Board of Education Bathurst Town and Bathurst Village to so acted promptly, the Protestants took steps jury of the ratepayers in said school diswork the schools of these two districts as to establish a private school] The report | tricts. that children of l'out stant parents should continues:be compelled to attend the teaching in the school rooms of the convent buildings.

fair-minded man would come to the conclusion that when the Roman Catholics of Bathurst Town and Bathurst Village, after | payers would have prefered that a Protestsupporting by voluntary subscriptions their ant Grammar School teacher should have ing during that time the assessed school payers, yet from the evidence I do not town and village carried on in accordance rates for the support of the schools in these districts from which Roman Catholic children derived but little benefit, concur- testants if the person appointed, although red in arrangements by which these schools should come under the law, that they might at least be credited with some honesty in the matter, and, instead of being charged with a desire to place the schools under the control of the Roman Catholic School Law, as the witnesses stated they did, -- perhaps, with reluctance, but neverits provisions should be carried out dur- March. ng school hours in the school rooms which the trustees had taken for the purposes of

the two districts. At the annual school meeting in Bathurst Town held in 1892, considerable discussion | forty. took place as to whether money should be voted to keep up the Grammar School in the Town, and feeling being high no money was voted for a Grammar School. Hardly, however, had this taken place when it was felt that a mistake had been made, and two meetings of the ratepayers were held to reconsider the matter, one on the 28th of December, 1892. and the other on the 4th of January, 1893; at the last of which meetings the ratepayers passed a resolution, the effect of which was that the grammar school in the town should be continued, and the trustees be requested to provide a teacher for it with as little delay as pos-

This explains in a few words the action taken in both districts in respect to the grammar school in the town and the superior school in the village, and I should think without any argument would dispose of the ground of complaint (c), that such closing of the grammar and superior schools was done in order to make it necessary as tar as possible that the children of protestants should be compelled to attend the said conventual schools of the Roman catholic church, and, it possible, firmly establish the latter schools in said school districts No. 20 (town) and No. 16 (village.)

Miss Landry's Engagement.

(d) The evidence shows that the trustees did place a French female teacher, a Misa Landry, who held only a license of the third class, a license obtained by Acadian candidates after four-and-a-half or five months training and under which they are supposed to teach in Acadian districts, in charge of the primary department of the public school in the village; and the protestant children in consequence did not attend the school. The objection to Miss while competent to teach according to her class of license she was not such a teacher as should have been placed in charge of the department she was placed in. This was certainly objectionable on the part of be done on the score of economy, as they wanted a teacher at a small salary; but such cheese paring was nevertheless a building in which two of the sisters had It would hardly seem necessary to refer been placed as teachers, much less would to the statement in this complaint that the they be inclined to send their children to they be inclined to send their children to an hour or so, between a few Protestants the school rooms in the convent building on the one side and a few Roman Catholics

sent by the Protestant ratepayers and could not see any good in his neighbor if of the grammar school in the hereinbefore dence did not support, much less warrant last mentioned school district at the be- any such charge. ginning of the present school term; such teacher was not a grammar school teacher, and had previously been dismissed by the said board of education from the position of school inspector under said board.

By reference to complaint No. 6, it will be observed that it was charged that the board of education had declined to take action in reference to a complaint sent by protestant parents and ratepayers to the board of education at the beginning of the year 1893 with regard to the teacher, (i.e., (a) That inferior and incompetent teachers have the teacher just referred to,) placed in (b) That the Superior School in District No. 16, (Bathurst Village,) was in consequence of the matter herein set forth closed, and the Grammar School in School District No. 2, Bathurst Town, was also closed.

(c) That the Superior School in District No. 16, at the beginning of that year; and in regard to this charge it will be noted in my remarks when dealing with it that at the charge of the grammar school in Bathurst argument counsel on behalf of Reverend Mr. Thomson frankly admitted and conceded that the evidence showed that the board of education had in this particular acted as promptly as could have been expected of them.

Mr. E. L. O'Brien'z Appointment.

The appointment of this teacher by the trustees was a most unfortunate occurrence. think it not unreasonable to conclude from the evidence that had it not been for this appointment school matters in the town would not have assumed the unpleasant and regrettable phase which followed this appointment.

The report proceeds to refer to the appointment of Edward L. O'Brien, an exinspector, who had been dismissed for irregular habits, as teacher of the grammar school. It had been conceded by all

It must not be considered here that the objection to Mr. O'Brien as a teacher was The evidence does not support any such | because he was a Roman Catholic—the | ground of objection. On the contrary, while it is evident that the Protestant ratethink there would have been any opposition a Roman Catholic had been competent and of unexceptionable moral character.

So soon as the Board of Education reappointed a Mr. Berton, of St. John. Grammer School teacher in the Town but clergy, be believed to have accepted the arrangements had been then made or were about completed for the establishment of the private school, though teaching in it also. theless with the desire and intention that did not commence until about the 20th of

The private school established under the circumstances was in operation when the present investigation was held, and the number enrolled in its register was about

When this school was established, it was opened in a building owned by a Mr. Charles Bosse, in rooms which had been rented by him to the Orange Lodge, and with the consent of the Lodge After it had been in operation for a very short time. Mr. Bosse, for some reason or another, objected to the school being held in these rooms; saying he had only rented the rooms for an Orange Lodge, and had simply given his consent to their occupancy for the private school for a tew weeks, and he desired that the rooms should not be occupied for school purposes.

Finding that the parties interested in the private school intended continuing the school in these rooms, he threatened he that building. From the evidence he attenpted to take the stove pipe down, and thus deprive them of the means of baving fire; he also attempted to use other means to compel them to leave the building, and eventually fastened the outside door with a lock and staples.

The efforts of Mr. Bosse to prevent the private school being held in the building were for some days publicly talked of; and the night before the occurrence happened which I am about to mention, it was stated | the Convent school buildings in Bathurst so to speak, when they went to open the private school the next morning, as Mr. Bosse had put or intended to put a padlock and staples on the outside door.

The So Called "Riot."

Accordingly, on the next morning, be ing the 26th of March, 1893, a number of persons from curiosity or otherwise gathered in the vicinity of the building to see what would be done. Friends of the private school with an axe broke the padlock, | Protestant church or the Protestant rateand the teacher and pupils entered the payers of said school districts, as is alleged school room without any molestation.

There were some twenty-five persons or thereabouts in all gathered to see what would be done. The evidence showed that of these about from twelve to fifteen were Protestants, and about nine to twelve Roman Catholics. After the lock had been passing through the press illegally and imthe trustees, and ought not in school inter- broken, and the teachers and scholars had ests to have been done. It was claimed to entered the school room, and while the persons present were standing around, a sled drove up, and the driver, who was a Protestant named Richard Miller, who did protestants to attend the schools in the Catholics present and made use of in said school districts. convent school building; for if the feeling expressions calling them a sneaking crowd ing lot of Catholics.

These expressions brought on a war of words, which continued, perhaps, for half Within less than an hour all had dis-

persed, and, so far as the evidence shewed, It was charged in this connection that the instance of some of the Roman Catholics

Those Famous Telegrams.

After the conclusion of the war of words, perhaps some two or three hours afterwards, the following telegrams were sent to Fredericton; the legislature being then in session. First a telegram from the Reverend Mr. Thomson and the Reverend Mr. Seller to the Attorney General, as follows:

'Hon A. G. BLAIR, M. P. P.,
'Fredericton, N. B.: 'On verge riot this morning—door private school barricaded—number Roman Catholics in vicinity when Protestants arriv d—our liberties and 'rights threatened-call upon Government for protection 'J. SELLER,

And secondly a telegram from the Rev.

Mr. Thomson to Mr. Pitts, a member of the legislature, as follows: Bathurst Station, March 28th, 1893.
'H. H. Pitts, M. P. P.,
'Fredericton, N. B.:

'Sent following telegram to Blair; -On verge riot this morning—number of Roman Catholics in vicinity when 'Protestants arrived—our liberties and rights threatened—call upon Government for pro-

'A. F. THOMSON.'

I make no comments upon these telegrams, further than to say that Bathurst school matters were then under discussion in the legislature. The evidence did not show that there was any tear in the community of a riot, nor that the senders of these telegrams were themselves in any way alarmed as to the safety of the protestant population of Bathurst town. Perhaps, now that some time has elapsed since these telegrams were sent, they, as well as the occurrence itself out of which they arose, may be considered as something

(9) The ninth ground of complaint is that the course pursued by the said school ual schools and in sustaining the same, and in rendering the public common schools of said districts less useful than they otherwise would have been, has greatly increased school districts, to the great loss and in-

Anxious to Carry out the Law.

It will be seen from the extracts from the correspondence between Dr. Inch, the Chief Superintendent, and the trustees, state of acts. I take it that any ordinary, evidence would not sustain any such that the board of education have in my opinion shewn not only due vigilance in respect to securing proper and reasonable grading of the schools, but also have evinced, as it was their duty to do, a most own schools for seventeen years and pay- been engaged, as understood by the rate earnest desire to have the schools in the with the requirements of the school law worth the naming on the part of the Pro- and regulations. That there have been difficulties in attaining all this is not to be wondered at, although at the time of my holding the investigation they were not entirely removed, I trust, to use the words fused to license Mr. O'Brien, the trustees of Dr. Inch in one of his letters, "That all parties with mutual torbearance and in the interests of peace and harmony may unite in promoting the educational work of the town;" and I will add of the village

> Under this head of complaint I cannot think that the evidence establishes that there has been such an exc ssive cost in maintaining the schools in the said districts as the complaint would seek to put forward; but beyond question the school trustees had not up to the time of the investigation fully met, as I think they ought to have done, the reasonable requirements said County of Gloucester. of the chief superintendent of education in regard to grading and average attendance; but as his letter virtually gave the trustees up to the end of the then current term (30th of June. 1893.) to meet the requirements he demanded, it is to be hoped that by that date the trustees may have skewn compliance with the terms contained in his letter to them.

(10) The tenth ground of complaint is that the said conventual schools were so established for the special benefit of the Roman Catholic church, and with a view of torwarding the interests of such church, and for the purpose of injuring the Prowould put a stop to their holding school in testant church, and to the injury of the Protestant ratepayers of said school districts, who pay a large proportion of the school taxes assessed upon the said school districts.

I have already stated that in my opinion no conventual schools, in the sense that the enets of the Roman Catholic church were to be taught therein, were established or were sought to be established in Bathurst Town or Bathurst Village; and all that was done in regard to the taking over of in public that there would be quite a time, Town and Bathurst Village and the engaging of duly licensed Sisters of Charity to teach in the Town and Village, was done with a bona fide intention of having the schools in such buildings taught and conducted under the provisions of the School Law and in accordance with the regulation of the Board of Education, and not in the slightest degree for the special benefit of the Roman Catholic church or with the view of forwarding the interests of that church or of injuring the in this ground of complaint.

Altering the School Manual, (11) The eleventh ground of complaint is that regulation No. 10 of the school manual issued under and by authority of the board of education in the year 1892 was when properly changed and altered, because the said trustees of said school district objected to comply with the terms of said regulation as originally passed by said board of education, and the reason of their so objecting was that the alteration and

complaint, that regulation 10 of the school manual of 1892 was when passing through the press illegally changed and altered.

I may here say that when I was a mem-ber of the Board of Education and a new School Manual was to be prepared, exactly the same course was adopted as in the present case—a committee was appointed

drafted. As it now stands, where there best. are special circumstances, of which the Board of Education must be the judge, I think this noon hour formed part of the these are to be considered in any order school day. that the Board may make under the

Employment of Protestant Teachers.

is that in the County of Gloucester, and in other school districts in said county, the tion of scripture and as to the prayers in said trustees of said hereinbefore last mentioned districts have refused to employ Protestant teachers on account of their religious faith, and because such teachers would not from conscientious scruples agree to teach the Roman Catholic catechism to the pupils of said schools.

Very little evidence was offered in support of this ground of complaint.

I cannot find anywhere in the evidence, (it may be there and may have escaped my notice,) that the trustees of any district recause such teachers would not from conscientious scruples, agree to teach the states that it shall be his privilege to do so. Roman Catholic catechism to the pupils of said schools.

Board of Education or the provisions of the school law, I am at a loss to understand. brought under the notice of the Board of then at the opening of the afternoon session Education; and if it had been, as the trus- again offering prayer, and when the school tees can engage such teachers as they closed by scripture reading and prayer, think fit, complying in every respect with construing the regulation to mean that the the law-it may not be proper for Roman forenoon session should be opened and Catholic trustees to say to a teacher: We closed with prayer. Other teachers said will not employ you, because you are a prayers at the opening of the forenoon and Protestant; or for Protestant trustees to afternoon sessions only, and one teacher say to a Roman Catholic teacher: We had prayers at the opening of the forenoon will not employ you, because you are a and atternoon sessions and at the close of Roman Catholic; but how can the Board of the school Education interfere, and must not the remedy in all these cases be after all left and, when the teacher desires to exercise to the discretion, good judgment and fair his privilege of reading scripture and offerdealing of those in whom the law has | ing prayer, contemplates that such scriptplaced the power of engaging teachers, | ure reading and prayer should take place namely, the school trustees of each district. only twice in any daily session of the school,

As a practical abstract question, we know district if he were a Protestant would desire | not contemplate the saying of prayers just to have a Protestant school teacher, and if before and immediately after the noon the trustee were a Roman Catholic, he would recess or the hour allowed for recreation. desire to have a Roman Catholic teacher: but after all the law has placed the engagement of teachers in the hands virtually of be contrary to the regulation. the ratepayers themselves, for the ratepavers elect the trustees, and the trustees It does not seem to me that this ground

of complaint need further be considered.

A Question of Expediency.

(13) The thirteenth ground of complaint is: That arrangements have been entered into between the Board of Education and the trustees of School Districts Number 15 and 16 in said County of Gloucester, under which teachers have been employed with the distinct understanding that they will impart religious instruction in the tenets of the Roman Catholic church to the pupils in the schools of said school districts after the regular school hours, and before the said pupils have departed to their several homes; thereby infringing upon and attempting to destroy the nonsectarian character of the schools in the

This complaint, divested of the glamor contained in it about giving religious instruction in the tenets of the Roman Catholic church, which so largely permeates all these complaints, is a very simple one; viz: that Dr. Inch, for what he believed to be satisfactory reasons, and as he understood with the consent of all concerned, sanctioned a temporary arrangement by which certain pupils of District. No 15 might attend school in District No. 16, and when informed that one of the trustees of District No. 15 had never assented to such arrangement withdrew his consent, and said the airangement must terminate; but subsequently, thinking the educational interests of District No. 15 required an extension of the arrangement, he extended it

It seems to me the case was one which the Board had power to deal with, and which came within the purview of sub-section 8 of Section 5 of the Common Schools

Act, Chapter 65 Consolidated Statutes. That sub-section enacts that the Board of Education shall have power to 'make 'such regulations as may be necessary to 'carry into effect the chapter, and gener-'ally to provide for any exigencies that may arise under its operation.

This may be said to be an exigency which the law contemplated the Board should provide for, and the time limit of the arrangement having expired, no good can now be accomplished by turther discussions of the question.

I may add that in what was done there did not appear to be any attempt to infringe upon or destroy the non-sectarian character of the schools in Districts No. 15 and 16 in Gloucester County.

Teaching the Catholic Catechism.

(14) The fourteenth ground of complaint is that in certain of the schools in the County of Gloucester the Roman Catholic catechism has been taught within school hours-that Roman Catholic prayers have been used within such hours in said schools-that Protestant children have been in the habit of kneeling in said schools within said school hours and crossing themselves along with the Roman Catholic pupils-that in one or more instances Protestant children have been forced by their teachers in said schools to so kneel and cross themselves—that in one instance a ordered by the teacher of such school to There is no evidence to sustain any such | leave the same, because he would not kneel pupils, and the said Protestant pupil did leave the said school under and by reason of such order.

Taking up each of these grounds of complaint seriatim: That in certain of the schools in the County of Gloucester the Roman Catholic catechism has been taught within school hours-I think the evidence to supervise the publication, with power to | shows that the Roman Catholic catechism make alterations and suggestions, and then | was taught in certain of the schools in the when completed such committee presented County of Gloucester during the hour the printed manual with the alterations and allowed at noon for recreation. This was suggestions made by them, which was then | done by the teachers under the impression adopted in so far as such alterations met and belief by them that such noon hour did not form any part of the school hours of This disposes of this ground of complaint, the day, and not from any intention to besides I may add that the qualification | violate the law; and I have already stated | opinion one that was absolutely necessary unreasonably conclude that as the noon CHAS. K. CAMERON & CO., 77 King St.

to the efficient carrying out of the spirit of hour is stated in the regulations to be 'an the regulation, because in every case it hour allowed at noon for recreation' theremight not be in the interest of the education | fore it was not a school hour, and that he of the children of the district to have such and the pupils with the consent of their a hard and last regulation as was at first parents might employ it as they thought

For reasons which I have above stated.

Roman Catholic Prayers.

Another ground of complaint under this head is that Roman catholic prayers have (12) The twelfth ground of complaint been used within such hours in said schools. The regulation as to the reading a por-

> schools is as follows:-'Regulation 22-School Manual 1892-Privilege of Teachers with respect to opening and closing exercises of Schools: It shall be the privilege of every teacher to open and close the daily exercises of the school by reading a portion of the S ripture (out of the common or Douay version, as he may prefer), and by offering the Lord's Prayer. Any other prayer may be used by permission of the Board of Trustees. B t no teacher shall compel any pupil to be present at these exercises against the wish of his parent or guard an, expressed in writing to the Board of Trustees.'

As will be seen, the regulation does not direct or command the teacher to open and fused to employ Protestant teachers be- close his school by reading a portion of scripture and by offering prayers; it simply

The evidence before me shewed a very variable practice among teachers in the Assuming all that is stated in this com- carrying out of the privilege given them by plaint to be true, how it can effect the this regulation. Some teachers opened their school by reading scripture and offering prayer, and then before dismissal at It was never, so far as the evidence shows, the noon recess again offering prayer, and

The regulation seems to be plain enough, namely, at the opening of the school, and that probably every trustee in every school at the close of the daily exercises, and does The saying of prayers, therefore, just

before and just after the noon recess would Another objection is that the prayers which were used by the tead

Roman Catholic prayers. The prayers used were what are called and known by the names of 'Hail Mary' and the 'Angelus.' The Lord's prayer

The saying of these prayers, where they were used by permission of the trustees, cannot be said to be in violation of the wording of Regulation 22, and in all cases but one I think it was shewn by the evidence that the teachers who used them did so with the permission of the trustees. and in that one case the teacher did not directly apply to the trustees for permission, because he said he was aware of the fact that former teachers in the same district had used such prayers and the trustees knew he was using them. It is not for me to say that the Board of Education did not contemplate that the permission granted to the trustees to use any other prayer would be construed by the trustees in such a manner as to permit what are strictly Roman Catholic prayers to be said by the teacher at the opening and closing of the daily school session. All I can say is that the doing is not in my opinion contrary to the words

contained in the regulation. The regulation was originally made on the 15th of November, 1871, (Regulation 21, School Manual 1872;) and is the same as the present Regulation 22, School Man-

Did Protestant Children Kneel?

Another ground of complaint under this head is that Protestant children have been in the habit of kneeling in said schools within said school hours and crossing themselves along with the Roman Catholic

I am not aware that the kneeling by the children in the school during the saving of prayers by the teacher is objectionable, and I will not so far insult the intelligence of the complainant or the counsel as to suppose that that is the gist of this ground of complaint; that is, that Protestant children were in the habit of crossing themselves along with the Roman Catholic pupils.

It was manifest from the evidence that the Protestant parents in these districts knew that the children knelt in school during prayer time, and that the Roman Catholic children crossed themselves; and it was quite open to them it they did not desire their children to be present at the reading of the scripture or the saying of prayers that they could under the provisions of regulation 22 have expressed their wish in writing to the board of trustees that they did not desire their children to (Concluded on Fourth Page.)



FRENCH, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN MILLINERY.