

Mr. Green "Inspector" Mond, Ont.  
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> /08.

Dear Sir:- It is impossible for me to re-  
frain any longer from writing you.  
As a matter of fact, you have severely hurt my  
feelings to quite an extent by your overbearing  
deceptive authority. You seem to undervalue my  
method of teaching, and cease to comply with  
the wishes of both the Board and myself to  
issue a permit from the Department. O, No!  
but you could give two other Quebec Teachers  
permits with out any difficulty.

How you consider yourself a Gentleman? Well,  
I guess not. Yes Mr. Green, you have favoured  
your own Ont. Teachers, and placed them in  
schools where they have failed in their exams,  
and I'll guarantee, there's not one third of your  
old Ont. Teachers, can compete with myself in  
regard to matters of education.

You need not get so haughty, and I  
see not why you have any reason to com-  
plain, when neither the Board, nor the

First page of letter from "A Quebec Teacher" to school inspector Leslie A. Green, 1 Dec. 1908.  
Credit: Archives of Ontario (Toronto)

<sup>1</sup>A number of surveys have been made of archival sources in Canadian women's history. See, for example, those published in the *Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women* - since 1978 entitled *Resources for Feminist Research* - (February and October 1976 and February 1977 Supplement), and the informal publications of the Canadian Women's History Project, OISE, on sources in Ontario and British Columbia. A survey of archival sources in Manitoba, undertaken by a team led by Mary Kinnear, should be completed soon and may be a model for future work at the provincial level. Certainly, the early surveys by no means exhausted the possible sources on women in Canadian archives, let alone the materials held in private hands which have yet to be deposited. A great deal of work, both in collecting, cataloguing and publication of lists of sources remains to be done. For

a discussion of the nature of the task, see Veronica Strong-Boag, "Raising Cleo's Consciousness: Women's History and Archives in Canada," *Archivaria* 6 (Summer 1978), 70-82.

<sup>2</sup>"Taking the Veil in Montreal, 1840-1920: An Alternative to Marriage, Motherhood and Spinsterhood" (Ph.D Thesis, University of Toronto, 1981). Friends have prepared the manuscript for publication and it should appear in book form in the fall of 1987.

<sup>3</sup>Liliane Thériault, s.m. à Alison Prentice (25 mars 1986).

<sup>4</sup>RH - 7, V 1460, 127. Archives des Soeurs de Miséricorde, Montréal.

<sup>5</sup>The best analysis of economic development is H.V. Nelles, *The Politics of Development: Forests, Mines & Hydro-electric Power in Ontario* (Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1974). Social and cultural policy is the subject of a forthcoming study by J.R. Abbott,

*Education and the Politics of Social Development: Ontario and its Laurentian Frontier, 1850-1950.*

<sup>6</sup>Deputy Minister of Education Colquhoun to L.A. Green, Toronto 20 July 1906), Archives of Ontario, R.G. 2, F-3-E, Box 4.

<sup>7</sup>"A Quebec Teacher" to L.A. Green, Mond, Ont. (1 Dec. 1908), AO, R.G. 2, F-3-E, Box 8 (1909). For an analysis of relationships between male inspectors and female teachers in Ontario at the turn of this century, see J.R. Abbott, "Accomplishing 'A Man's Task': Rural Women Teachers, Male Culture, and the School Inspectorate in Ontario," in *Ontario History* (December 1986).

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## MILIEU

De loin et de longtemps  
Je retourne aux sources  
Pour repartir  
Pour recommencer

J'ai vu la première neige tomber  
J'ai vu tourner le vent  
Des défaveurs  
Horribles et secrètes  
Les incontinenes de l'écrit

Je sens l'encens qui monte  
Je sens les sacrifices s'allumer  
Des sorcières  
Tangibles et corrompues  
Les boursuflures de la poésie

De partout et de longtemps  
Je replonge dans les mers  
Pour refaire  
Pour réaliser

Le MILIEU  
Et vivre au centre de moi-même  
Avec mes gages  
D'abstinence

**Céline Messner**  
Montréal, Québec