

the meantime with the State in the matter of education, and to aim in future at carrying out the views of the State, that is of the world, in educating men and women for worldly pursuits without reference in any way to religion or to the existence of God, or of immortal souls. When this shall have been obtained thoroughly in any one generation, logical consistency, the cravings of souls distracted from their true end, and the downward impulses of fallen human nature would make the triumph of Socialism a sure thing at the next stage.

"The world, then, is the hostile power now openly arrayed by the devil against the Catholic Church in the matter of education, State education and the form of this array. The flesh, or Socialism, is obliged to coalesce in the meantime with the State in order to half effect its desired debauchery of youth.

"We have stated the case of education in this State precisely as it exists. Our contests as Catholics is not against any given form of Protestantism as taught in the State schools. It is not against 'Protestantism in general' except that most general sort of Protestantism which negates all positive religion.

"Now it is well for us half million Catholics in this State to recollect that this is professedly, and, in a good degree, really a land of personal and religious liberty. On almost any question a statute that oppresses half a million of the people of the State of New York—that takes their money without rendering them any valuable equivalent, is too oppressive and unjust to meet with popular support. Such a statute is, past all doubt, the school law in its present form. The State, in stepping forward to control and prescribe the education of the children of her citizens, has struck a deadly blow at the liberties of American Republicanism as distinguished from Jacobinic and despotic Democratism. The providing for education by State tax is something outside of the normal duties of government according to the principles of American Democracy, and is tolerable only on condition that the education thus provided is one that does not clash with the wishes, interests, or convictions of any body of citizens, or, at least, of any considerable body. But the existing State school system conflicts

directly with the convictions of the half-million Catholics, and beyond them with that of every religious sect that has positive dogmas to teach, and enough of life left as a sect to wish to perpetuate itself. Under these circumstances we look upon it merely as a question of time when this odious anti-American Jacobinical system of impiety is to fall. If Catholics will please now to shake off the sluggishness that has so beset them on this as on other mixed questions affecting their political rights, and if Presbyterians and other Protestant sects, which have still dogmas or a religion which they care to teach to their children, will not refuse to work with them for a common interest, we know that there are in this State enough of candid impartial men, and enough of men disgusted with the profligacy, the inefficiency, and the expensiveness, as well as the illegality of the present State system, to extinguish the monstrous growth, or so to modify it as to give back to parents and citizens their right of directing the education of their own children. If Catholics still sleep on under the pretext of being quiet citizens, or from their usual honor of combination for the assertion of their political rights, then their fellow citizens will reasonably conclude that their backs were made for packsaddles, and will very properly load them with other grievous burdens made especially for them, until even their patience will be worn out, and, with more difficulty, and by more disturbing and violent efforts they will by and by be compelled to stand up in defence of their legal rights.

"If Catholics will now arouse and organize for effort on this subject, and if the Protestant sects join hands again with the infidels and Socialists in opposing the right of positive religious education in schools—choosing rather to sink in the flood of unbelief than to swim by helping with Catholics to bale out and caulk the vessel in which both are interested, then the glorious sight will be given the world, and especially to all men of good will among ourselves, of Catholics struggling alone in behalf of the principle of religious education for the young. It would be a spectacle in its general moral results on the community worth every sacrifice. It is one that would become intolerable to all