

Parochial Schools of the United States and Canada. All of these books are thorough advocates of Roman Catholicism, so much so indeed, as to deserve the name of apologetic works. In the preface to *The Third Reader* of the National Series, the author naively says: "The Third Reader, in common with the other books of the CATHOLIC NATIONAL SERIES, has one chief characteristic, viz.: a thoroughly Catholic tone, which will be found to pervade the whole book." Imagine a school-book commended to our approval, even by the statement that it has "a thoroughly Baptist," or "Methodist," or "Episcopalian tone." The table of contents prefixed to "*The Third Reader*," contains, among others equally suggestive, the following titles: "Bessie's First Mass," "St. Germaine Cousin," "The Weight of a Prayer," "Pope Leo XIII. and the Brigands," "The Legend of the Infant Jesus Serving at Mass," "How to be a Nun," "St. Bridget," and "St. Francis of Assisi." "The Weight of a Prayer" relates that a poor woman went into a butcher-shop and asked for meat. When the butcher inquired what she had to give for it, she answered, "nothing but my prayers." The butcher says that prayers will not pay rent and buy cattle. But, inclined to joke, he says he will give her as much meat as her prayer will weigh. Thereupon he writes the poor woman's prayer on a slip of paper and puts it on one side of the scale and then puts a tiny bit of meat on the other side. To his astonishment, the paper does not rise. He puts on a larger piece. Still the paper remains down. Then in fright he puts on the scale a large round of beef, and turning to the woman acknowledges the evident hand of God, and in penitence promises her in the future all the meat she may want. In this book are