

determined by the Church independent of Government, with perfect freedom to inculcate at your expense the leading doctrine of the recent Pastoral, viz., that the Pope has a right to control the action of your Legislators in all matters affecting education. That the Church of Rome holds this doctrine in all its plenitude is no longer a mere assertion. The Pastoral boldly establishes the fact.

That Pastoral covertly asserts what is untrue. It says, "It is the Parents and not the State that are responsible for the immortal souls of their children," and then adds, "to interfere with the performance of their duty in this particular is a violation of all law both human and divine." The object of these statements is to make Roman Catholics believe that our free schools interfere between parents and children and undertake to train their "immortal souls" while the fact is the very reverse. Your Free Schools most carefully avoid any interference with the subject of religious training, leaving Roman Catholic youth entirely in the hands of Parents and Priests.

The Pastoral claims from your Government what it says has been granted in Ontario and Quebec. But what are the facts? It is notorious that the concessions made by Ontario to the Romish Church have neither improved Public Education, nor satisfied the demands of the Romish Hierarchy. In Ontario separate schools were granted as the price of Roman Catholic political support, and politicians having once basely sold the People's rights to ecclesiastical authorities are expected to do so again just as often as those authorities have new demands to make. The Rulers of Ontario find themselves to-day pressed by demands for further concessions in favor of the Romish Church. Where those demands will cease it is impossible to say, but ere we follow the example of Ontario as cited by the Pastoral, let us wait till we see how far imperious assumption will succeed in driving time serving rulers. That they will stop short of supremacy over your Legislators and Government, unless resolutely checked as in Germany and the Western States, we do not believe. We believe that in her educational system Ontario has made a terrible mistake, and it becomes us to take warning by her example.

The Pastoral quotes the action of Quebec, and conveys the idea that separate schools as claimed by the Bishops exist there in all their free integrity. Nothing is further from fact. The School Law of Quebec operates most unfairly on Protestant minorities; and majority schools are intensely Roman

Catholic in their sectarianism, while Protestant Schools are unsectarian. In the Roman Catholic schools all the peculiar doctrine of Romanism are taught at the public expense, while Protestants take no public money to disseminate their doctrines. But this is not all. Divisions of taxable localities have been made to crush Protestant Schools, and where Protestants are too weak to secure a Free School, children must grow up in ignorance, or attend schools where everything is done to undermine and destroy their religious principles. We decline to take that Province as a model in either Law, Morals or Religion.

"We ask no more," says the Pastoral. This declaration has been made at every new demand, "no more." How has the promise been kept? Take Ontario, to which the Bishops refer you, as an example. *Four new demands* are now being made by the Priests in Ontario—one of them for a Roman Catholic Normal School. This is the best commentary on the asking "no more" of the Pastoral, if, as the Bishop says, they are of one mind everywhere.

Here is the crowning argument of the Pastoral, and we commend it to your careful study: It says, "That Church through its supreme oracle our glorious Pius IX has settled this question forever." What question? Why, the question of his right to denounce your legislation and declare it null and void if opposed to the good of the church! Protestants of Nova Scotia, are you prepared to surrender your dearest rights and privileges, and the future of your children to this monstrous arrogance? That nothing which you or your Rulers do on the subject of education is valid if opposed to the infallible authority of the Pope! Are you and yours, manacled slaves to be lashed and driven as this infallible dictatorial commands?

The Pastoral appeals, in proof of the lamentable effects of Free Education, to France—a country where for a thousand years education has, in both its secular and religious forms, been under the Priests alone. What France is to-day is due to the priestly education claimed by the Bishops as their right in Nova Scotia. With strange ingratitude the Pastoral joins Germany and the United States with France, as suffering terrible consequences from unsectarian education. These countries are to-day the most intelligent, powerful, prosperous and progressive nations of the world, while France is like a seething caldron of ignorance and impiety. If the supervision claimed by the Pastoral be so valuable why is it that the Civil Rulers of every