

His admirable Encyclical will provide a theme for many salutary instructions ; but it is not Our intention to comment it to-day. We wish simply to promulgate it by giving its sense and bearing. That sense, however, is quite clear and cannot lead to discussion.

After paying a just tribute of homage to the religious glories that have marked the origin and progress of the Church in Canada, after having recalled what the Church has done in our midst for the instruction of childhood and youth, after having "placed the Canadian nation on a level with the most civilized and the most glorious," and having made it their "rival," Leo XIII hastens to broach, in order to solve it, the great school controversy which we have mentioned above.

In his Letter we may distinguish three principal parts :

- 1° — Principles of the Catholic Church regarding education ;
- 2° — Appreciation of all the events relating to the Manitoba school question from the law of 1890 to the present day ;
- 3° — Duty of Catholics and of all citizens, regarding this question, in the future.

PART FIRST.

PRINCIPLES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE MATTER OF EDUCATION.

In this First Part, Leo XIII teaches : 1. — That the parents above all, under the guidance and with the concurrence of the Church, are bound to provide for the education of their children and to assure them that kind of instruction which is proper and adapts itself to their religious belief. That is the reason why, in the laws of 1890 which afflicted our coreligionists of Manitoba, must be seen not only a violation of the Federal pact, but also a regrettable injury against the unforfeitable rights of the Church and of parents. "As to deciding, says His Holiness, in what institutions their children shall be brought up, what masters shall be called to teach them the moral precepts, that is a right inherent to paternal authority."

2. — Leo XIII energetically condemns, as he has already often done, mixed and neutral schools. Speaking of the latter, he says : "Must be shunned at any cost, as most pernicious, those schools where all beliefs are indifferently harbored and placed on the same footing, as if, in what concerns God and things divine, it mattered little to have or not sound doctrines, and to adopt truth or error."