

*prelates and priests toward our public schools.*

Protestant governments encourage popular education, divorced from sectarian control. All such governments have either an inexpensive or a free system of unsectarian education for young people. Probably none across the Atlantic will equal the systems of some of our wealthiest States. Almost all, if not absolutely all, of our States and their respective county sub-divisions have excellent systems of public instruction, by which the poorest boy or girl may receive, at little cost, a fair English and even a classical education. The children of peasants and millionaires, Jews and Gentiles, Roman Catholics and Protestants, regardless of color or sex, may have the advantages of a non-denominational and comprehensive curriculum. Outside of Protestant lands Romanism takes a limited interest in the general education of the young. The illiteracy of the adult population of such countries as Italy, Mexico, Austria, and Spain conspicuously illustrates this fact. From seventy to ninety per cent of these people can neither read nor write. In nearly all of our States Romanism has made, and is making, war on the public schools. Parishioners who patronize them are threatened with excommunication. Where school boards permit the teachers to open the daily sessions with the Word of God they are assailed as "sectarian" institutions. Where the use of the Bible is prohibited they are termed "godless" schools. The latest stratagem of the papal hierarchy in populous cities is to control their operations through sympathetic school boards. Bishops and archbishops have, by the hundred, traduced our public-school systems, and admonished Roman Catholic parents to patronize only the parochial schools of the Church. General Lafayette, himself a Roman Catholic, said: "If the liberties of the American people are ever destroyed they will fall by the hands of the Roman clergy." Had he substituted the word "schools" for "liberties" his prophecy would have

a wider indorsement. The Protestant ministry and laity cannot too vigilantly watch the machinations of Romanism in its relation to the schools sustained by public taxation and free from sectarian control. An additional peril to our highest national progress is:

III. *The enormous, continuous, and increasing immigration of the criminals and paupers from European lands.*

Worthy people from beyond the Atlantic should ever find a hospitable welcome on our shores. Many of our best citizens were born across the ocean. But thousands of worthless paupers and ex-convicts come to the United States. They are foremost in the promotion of strikes, in the establishment of saloons, in furnishing work for criminal juries, and in inciting and prosecuting riots. The men shot down at New Orleans by the angry citizens for the assassination of the chief of the policemen were blood-stained exiles. They forced our Government into unpleasant relations with its friend Italy. English journals have stated that three fourths of the men discharged from the prisons of Ireland come to the United States. They furnish us with our dangerous classes. From their ranks come anarchists, burglars, highwaymen, and tramps. They elbow our laboring men out of remunerative positions by furnishing what is termed "cheap labor." There is room on the soil of this republic for all of the industrious foreigners who come to us, but the representative men of the great political parties should perseveringly labor to secure from Congress such legislation as will steadily decrease excessive immigration, and prevent our territory from becoming the vast dumping-ground on which European nations shall continue to deposit their criminal and pauper populations. Another grave national peril is:

IV. *The startling increase of Sunday desecration.*

Human obligation to refrain from unnecessary manual labor during one day in seven is both perpetual and universal. The lofty estimate God placed on