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"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris ecclesiæ."

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

SINCE the introduction of the Free School system into this Province a very wonderful change has already been wrought throughout the length and breadth of the land. Not only in the towns and large villages has the secular education of the country received a mighty impulse, but even in the remote back-wood settlements, and scattered fishing hamlets on the shores have school-houses been built and schools started, where under the old system no efforts could produce such results, nor could the people be aroused to such exertion, for it is not the ignorant man who most feels his own want, and blind selfishness under the voluntary principle is a disheartening thing to deal with. Two or three years ago, Missionaries might travel for days among the out-of-the-way Coves along our shores and find hundreds of families too far removed from any place of public worship to receive regular spiritual instruction, and yet unable to read Bibles, Prayer-book or religious Tracts if left among them,—thus living bringing up families, and dying almost without God and without hope in the world. Often has the writer found the sick in such places unable to read for themselves, and without a near neighbour who could perform the charitable office for them. But even already, since the introduction of the Free School system, a very great change is perceptible. Every morning in such neighbourhoods the children are to be seen rowing across the Coves or threading their way on the footpaths through the "barrens" to the distant school-house, and in almost every family the little ones are able to read in their own tongue the wonderful works of God.

But alas, with the ability to read comes the greater ability to doubt, for "a little learning is a dangerous thing," as the history of the Free School system in Prussia and the United States has abundantly proved. Satan is well aware of the new opening in our Province, and here as elsewhere we shall soon see his books, papers, and tracts in full circulation. Mankind have ever shown a desire for the knowledge—not only of good,—but evil. Along our shores and in many of our rural settlements, thank God, especially where the Scotch and German elements exist, there has always been among the few who could read, a strong preference for religious books, and in the purchase of secular books, a bias in favour of those of a religious or moral tendency. It is for this reason that a few years ago when the D. C. S. sent out an active Colporteur with a stock of such books the ready sales among such people of all persuasions astonished all who watched the experiment.

But why was not that experiment followed up? Why has our Church re-