

## LIFE AND CATHOLIC JOURNALISM

—OF THE LATE—

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#### CHAPTER XII.—CONTINUED.

##### CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.



**I**N the State of New York there is a Catholic population of half a million souls at the least. The human reason and divine religion of these half a million alike tell them that they are responsible for the education of their children, and that they are bound to bring them up in the Catholic religion, and under the supervision of the Catholic Church. The Pope, to whose voice pastors and people alike are bound to listen, has called on all bishops to see to it that Catholic youth are educated in schools, where all, and in all things, are Catholic; that is, in schools under Catholic teachers of approved faith and morals, where the instructions given in secular science shall be in conformity with and accompanied by the religious teachings of the Church, and where during the years of their study they shall not be exposed to the company of children who are heretics or infidels. The late National Convention of Baltimore, in conformity with the voice of the successor of St. Peter, has called upon us, people as well as pastors, to labor earnestly to this end of providing an exclusively Catholic education for the children in this country baptized in the Catholic Church. The state of the case is thus made exceedingly clear. The duty of Catholics in the premises is most plain. They are bound to unite and to strive to provide for the entire Catholic youth of the country, schools, Catholic in their teachers, in their instructions, and in the character of the scholars attending them.

"In so doing they must meet with opposition from the devil, and from his ser-

vants, the world and the flesh. It is the condition of being soldiers of Christ that this three-fold opposition be made to them, and it becomes active just in proportion as the servants of Christ exert themselves in behalf of Him, of their duty, and of their religion.

"There are, then, two active visible influences set up and opposed to the commands of the Catholic Church in reference to education. The world, which is represented by the system of State schools, ignoring the existence of the soul, of eternal life, and of God, claims the right of taking the education of children into its own hands, and of bringing them up for its own purposes; of teaching them to read, and write, and calculate numbers, and so on, for its own worldly purposes, as if there were no God and no Church having authority over men.

"The flesh, which is represented by Socialism, sets up its claim to educate children for indulgence in their passions and natural inclinations. It insists not only on ignoring God in education, but on substituting its own God, which it avows to be passion. It rejects all authority, of the State as well as of the Church, and seeks to bring up children to be lawless men and women, without natural affection or natural restraints, but as slaves of passion and adepts in vice.

"By way of preference the devil, of course, would choose Socialism as his favorite of these two. Socialism is, indeed, the devil's own church, the very incarnation of this spirit. But six thousand years of experiment on human nature have taught him that things on earth go by degrees; and like a skillful politician, he takes what he can get and uses it for getting more. Socialism in this country is not strong enough yet to resist the State; the devil therefore urges it to take part in