

in the United States as a whole ; for while there were but 47 schools with 12,200 pupils in New England in 1870, the number has grown to 189 in 1886 with 61,709 pupils. During this period the number of parochial schools in the country had grown from 1214 with 257,600 pupils in 1870 to 2697 with 537,725 pupils in 1886. There are no doubt over 600,000 children now in these schools. To show how the real work of instruction is attended to, it may be stated that in Lowell, Mass., one of the French Catholic Schools has 1300 children with 17 teachers to attend to them, 76 children for each instructor.

A question may at this point be asked. Is it fair to enquire whether the means taken by the Roman Catholic clergy to fill their parochial schools are all of them legitimate. To what extent, for instance, is it legitimate to prevent parents from sending their children to the common schools, as they would choose to do if left to their own judgment, by telling them that these institutions are "heartless, headless and Godless schools of immorality in which divorces originate?" To what extent should the State allow institutions that lie at the foundation of the nation's prosperity, to be maligned, grossly misrepresented and falsely accused by a foreign hierarchy that will not, that cannot, be satisfied with the privileges accorded to all other creeds? It is no longer here a question of gain or loss to the Romish population, that will or will not be benefited by the public schools. It becomes a far more serious question, a question of self-protection and self-preservation which the nation has to deal with.

We may venture still another question. To what extent is it legitimate for the Romish clergy of the United States or of Canada, to interfere with the religious liberty of the people under them, by refusing them the rites of the Church, unless they keep out of the schools provided by the State and to support which they pay taxes? Such and kindred questions may be seriously considered.

Such is the tremendous evil which the United States and Protestant Ontario have allowed to take root in their midst by their culpable *laissez faire* policy. How can it be remedied? The question is more easily put than answered. A Protestant nation will always grant the fullest toleration even to the grossest of errors. It is in this that Rome has the advantage. And yet toleration and license are two different things. The American people give the fullest toleration and yet they hang Anarchists who throw bombs. The Romanist does not throw bombs, but he destroys the nation otherwise ; he interferes with the great institutions of the land. How can