## The American Common School

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1. Destroys intellectual liberty. The pursuit of knowledge and the search for truth cannot be disinterested when the mind works under the rule of such a principle as that of papal infallibility. The facts of history cannot be critically investigated and impartially weighed, for they cannot be suffered to contradict this principle. The phenomena of nature, also, must be studied subject to interpretations of the world which are ecclesiastical and dogmatic. The mind is not toned up and stimulated to a full and systematical development; for it is compelled to fit a certain unyielding mould. The conception of the infallible authority of a human organization not only fetters the mind by setting limits to enquiry, but also prevents that unflinching sincerity in thinking without which intellectual liberty is both meaningless and impossible.

2. The principle of Parochial School training promotes deficient and dishonest teaching.

An examination of the text books now in use in the Parochial Schools will abundantly substantiate this confessedly grave charge. The teaching in these books is *deficient*, because vital facts of history are either omitted, or given in such disproportion that their meaning is obscured. The teaching is *dishonest*, because these books are marked not only by suppressions of the truth, but also by misstatements by which sound knowledge is prevented and false ideas are inculcated in the interest of the Roman Catholic church. I have examined "A Full Catechism of the Catholic Religion," "Saddlier's Excelsior Introduction to Geography," Gazeau's "Modern History," "The Young Catholic's Illustrated Fifth Reader," "The Third Reader" of the Catholic National Series, and Bishop Gilmour's Bible and Church History, all of which are widely used in the