

instruction, but entertainment. And we have not yet been forced to the conviction that even this "good creature of God" may not be "sanctified by the word of God and by prayer."

To all our readers, working men, mothers and children, employers and employees, pastors and people, we wish such a vacation-season as will send them home again refreshed in heart and soul, in mind and strength.

"THE PROGRAMME" IN QUEBEC.

It is not too late, in our opinion, to refer to the remarkable developments of ultramontane tactics during the recent elections for the Province of Quebec. Both in the matter and in the manner of the manifestation, it is full of instruction.

It will be remembered that, shortly before the time for nominating candidates for the Provincial Legislature, a small company of young journalists and subordinate ecclesiastics met together, and framed "the Catholic Programme." This was, in brief, to the effect, that all legislation, on any question which the Romish Bishops might declare to be one affecting morals and religion, must be conformed to the dictation of their Lordships, and that the chief enquiry to be made of any candidate was whether he would strictly follow this rule. Two Bishops—those of Montreal and Three Rivers, warmly endorsed the Programme; and three, including the Archbishop of Quebec, condemned it as—mark! *not* heretical and anti-Catholic, but—unauthorised. The ecclesiastical newspapers earnestly supported it; the political press was divided, the majority, however, claiming independence for the representatives of the people. Moreover, the Programme party was defeated at the polls.

So far, good. But this is not the end. The fact that gives point to this incident, is, that the Programme is but the application to the politics of Canada of the doctrines of Pío Nono's Encyclical Letter and the Syllabus thereto appended. The authors may have spoken too soon, as a matter of policy, but they spoke precisely according to the declared mind of the "Infallible" Chief Bishop. Canada is not yet quite ripe for such a doctrine, not even Quebec. But this very explosion of premature zeal will serve to call attention to the subject, make it familiar, and scatter the doctrine as a seed, far and wide. The first shock of surprise and indignation spends itself upon laymen and the rank and file of the priesthood. By and by the Hierarchy will advance in solid column to support these skirmishers.

Their great fault was their frankness and forwardness. Does any one doubt that our politics have been secretly moulded by the Bishops? Now and then, it crops out; as when Sir George Cartier announced that the Confederation Scheme had received their sanction, and as when Bishop Taché was recalled from Rome to appease the storm he had raised in Red River. Unless Protestants are watchful, and liberal French Canadians are united and firm, our very forms of liberty will be perverted to fasten upon us the most absolute and irresponsible of all despotisms.