

purpose, the person or persons, association or organization conducting or managing such school shall be entitled to receive from the State (or city, or county, or district) each year a share of all State and other moneys now directed to be apportioned and distributed among the common schools, the same to be apportioned and distributed among them as directed to be apportioned and distributed among the common schools by Chapter 555 of the laws of 1864.

"Section 2. Such sums shall be paid annually from time to time, provided that such school shall be always open at reasonable time for inspection, as aforesaid, and that the pupils shall have passed a satisfactory examination at such stated times as may be determined by the Board of School Trustees in accordance with the usages and regulations in force for the public schools of the State.

"Section 3. The provisions of this act shall apply only to primary and grammar schools, or schools in which the course of study is substantially equal to that in use in the public schools of the State."

The father of the above bill is the editor of the New York *Sunday Democrat*, Dr. Michael Walsh, and he is at present writing engaged in securing signatures to a petition to the Legislature asking its enactment into law. It is represented by him that the proposed measure has the papal sanction, and is "approved by the cardinals and clergy, by the leading bishops in England, Ireland, and all English-speaking countries, as well as by some of the most noted prelates of France and Germany." That the claim is true of many of the Romish clergy and laity in our own land also cannot be denied. At the same time it is gratifying to state that there is strong opposition on the part of many famous names in the Romish Church here. Among these are ex-Judge Charles P. Daly, State Senator Eugene P. O'Connor, and John A. McCall, President of the New York Life Insurance Company, all of whom have recorded themselves as strong friends of our existing school system and enemies of any plan that looks toward its overthrow, which is the case with this proposal to give public support to parochial schools. Despite the fact that such eminent authorities as the Papal Alegate, Satolli, Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, Archbishop

Ryan and Bishop Keane have given countenance to it, the antagonism that has been aroused in others almost if not equally as prominent renders it most certain that the legislatures of our States will hesitate long before enacting the measure. Archbishop Corrigan is reported to have said of it: "I think it most unwise. Moreover, I know of no bishop in the archdiocese who approves of it." The editor of the *Western Watchman*, a Catholic journal published at St. Louis, Mo., writes: "We are unalterably of the conviction that the denominational system is the very worst that could be devised for our country. We have no hesitation in saying that the present purely secular system is the very best that could be adopted for our heterogeneous mass of believers and unbelievers." The editor of the *Milwaukee Catholic Citizen* writes: "We are opposed to a division of the school fund. Not because it is wrong in principle or inequitable in practice, but because it is beset with dangers to religious freedom, because it is generally impracticable, and because it would impair the efficiency of the common-school system as a whole."

Of course outside the Romish Church the opposition is unanimous. This opposition is voiced by the National League for the Protection of American Institutions in a public appeal which is in part as follows:

"The practice of nations in the support of schools where the union of Church and State prevails furnishes no precedent for the United States. We are not looking to monarchies for instruction concerning the best training of youth to fit them for citizenship in this Republic. Popular suffrage here rests for its safe exercise upon the character and intelligence of all classes of the people. The Republic, for its own preservation, has established and must insist upon maintaining a free common-school system of education. It must be maintained without compromise. It is the only system capable of converting the dangerously heterogeneous elements of our population into a safely homogeneous citizenship. The tax for the maintenance of public schools levied upon all citizens, whether they have