

THE CATHOLIC SHIELD.

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE AND GENERAL REVIEW.

"Scuto circumdabit te veritas ejus."

Subscription: \$1.00 per annum in advance.

Single Copy, 10Cts.

Vol. I.

OTTAWA, MAY, 1881.

No. 1.

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THE "CATHOLIC SHIELD."

SALUTATORY.

The publication of a Catholic Periodical, whose tone and actual performance shall be in strict keeping with the character it assumes, is an undertaking of no ordinary importance, and involves a consequent risk and labor of a most serious nature. In issuing the first number of the CATHOLIC SHIELD, we are fully impressed with the magnitude of our task, and the care to be exercised in its proper management, while we are keenly alive to the duties which shall devolve upon us as it grows apace. It was only after a patient survey of our chosen field of labor, and honest study of the workmen already there, that we determined upon a Periodical with an unclaimed furrow before it. How vast the field we stand in, how much its tillers have achieved, and wherein they have failed, we propose not at present to discuss. Only this shall we say, that there is yet many a sod unturned, many a boulder and stub untouched, and consequently ample employment for another laborer.

We enter upon our self-allotted work with no pretensions of supplying "a want long felt" in the Catholic community; in no spirit of opposition to any existing journal; not as an admonitor of ecclesiastical authority or director of private conscience; not to pander to sectarian prejudices or promote useless inquiry or idle controversy; but to assist, in a modest way, in propagating what is true and combating what is false in Religion, Philosophy, Science, Social Econ-

omy, History, and the Arts; and in cultivating a popular taste for the True, the Beautiful, and the Good. We have no other aim but this,—to place before Catholic readers a careful review of the leading questions of the day in their relation to the Universal Church, and a monthly digest of important events the world over.

For this purpose, we have secured the services of gentlemen who, while they do not pretend to be "the best talent the country can produce," are well versed in every subject they propose to handle, and are no novices in journalism. With their valuable aid, besides occasional contributions from other writers of merit, we hope to make the CATHOLIC SHIELD a useful and welcome family magazine, ever faithful to its mission, alive to Catholic interests, and preserving that dignity in tone and bearing which becometh Catholic journalism. So much said, we ask the support of an intelligent Catholic community, and rely upon their outside assistance for our success.

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THE EDUCATION OF CATHOLICS IN ONTARIO.

After a long and persistent struggle the Catholic minority in Ontario succeeded in obtaining the passage of an Act legalizing Separate Schools, a very imperfect measure it is true, but yet something at the time to be thankful for. It has been since improved by several amendments, for which the present Minister of Education deserves credit, and now gives pretty general satisfaction so far as primary education is concerned, to which its provisions are restricted. But Catholics cannot be satisfied with primary education, and they have rights to separate higher education as well. The time has come to press their claims, in justice and fair play, upon the attention of the Administration and Legislature, and demand the extension of the Separate School Act to High Schools for Catholics. Unless this be speedily obtained, we have the gravest fears for the existence of Separate primary Schools all over the province, for it is daily becoming more and more difficult to convince our people of the wisdom and the advantage to faith and morals of enforcing separate education in the rudiments, while co-education is tolerated in the superior branches, and not only tolerated but encouraged, as witness the efforts put forth by the