

« you to give your vote to the first comer who presents himself
« with fine words and grand promises, without taking pains to
« ascertain his ability, and especially his principles. Examine
« carefully how far you can rely on each candidate for the pro-
« tection of your religious as well as of your temporal interests.»
(Pastoral letter of His Grace Archbishop Taschereau, May
25, 1876).

Examine therefore by yourselves to know the character, the
conduct, the principles of a candidate. Listen to his speeches
and weigh his reasons, and submit them whenever requisite to
the appreciation of educated men who are fit to approve of them
or to answer them. Examine what men recommend the can-
didate to your confidence, who are his friends, who his adver-
saries. And, whenever he belongs to a definite political party, try
to understand the principles and the programme of such a party,
and in what they seem to you advantageous for, or contrary to,
the moral and temporal good of the country.

Listen attentively, and without having made up your mind
beforehand, to the discussion of political questions on which
you may have to form your judgment. Do not place a blind
trust in a party-newspaper which often disfigures facts, and
seeks only to delude you regarding the leaders it serves and to
prejudice you against those it combats. It is often by comparing
contradictory judgments and assertions that you may discover
the truth.

Finally, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, in order to act pru-
dently, you should, in such circumstances, take advice of wiser
than yourselves. If there be in your parish a man wise, learned,
conscientious, whom you would like to consult on any affair
that might concern the honor or the future of your family, if
above all, such a man be religious, and fearing God, and seem
to you not to be inspired by passion nor engaged in political
party-intrigues, it is from him that you may expect the explana-
tion or information requisite to form your judgment.

Nothing prevents you, if you cannot otherwise seriously form
your conscience, from exposing your doubts to, and asking
advice of, him who, having one day to answer for your soul
before the judgment-seat of God, is bound more than any one