

themselves a second time for the maintenance of their own religion. As Catholics we form nearly one half of the population of the Dominion of Canada, and we have, therefore, an undoubted right to obtain in the Maritime Provinces, what the Catholic majority accorded long ago to the Protestant minority of the Province of Quebec, and what the Protestant majority, after many years of agitation, finally conceded to the Catholic minority in the Province of Ontario. We ask no more, and no honest and unprejudiced man can blame us for stating that, in this country of equal rights, we will be content with nothing less. We see no reason why the Catholic minority in Ontario or the Protestant minority in Quebec should enjoy any legal privileges denied to us as citizens of the same Dominion. It is the undoubted right, as it is the duty of Catholic parents to provide above all things, for the Christian education of their children. The child, not less than the parent, must be taught first to reverence and then "to hear the Church," which is commissioned by God Himself "to teach all nations," and "to preach to every creature." That Church, through its supreme Oracle, our glorious Pius the Ninth, has settled the question forever. "No Catholic," he says, "can approve of the system of educating youth, unconnected with the Catholic Faith,—a system which regards the knowledge of natural things as the great end of social life." The same authority, replying to the Archbishop of Freiburg, states: "There is no doubt that the greatest injury is inflicted on society, when the directing authority and salutary power of the Church are withdrawn from public and private education, on which the happiness of the Church and Commonwealth so much depends. Thus society is little by little deprived of the truly Christian spirit which alone can permanently secure the foundation of peace and public order, and direct the true and useful progress of civilization, and give man that assistance which is necessary to attain after this life—his last end in eternal happiness."

The education which instructs the mind and moulds the tender heart of youth, without Religion and its soul-saving