

educate their children according to their own views; we are bound to exert ourselves to the utmost to have our own well trained in the knowledge and virtue which will make them good Christians, and consequently faithful and useful citizens.

The first step is to make our schools truly efficient, in both religious and secular teaching. You labor, of course, under a heavy disadvantage, since your congregations are obliged, first, to contribute to the education of their neighbors' children, by public taxes; and afterwards, out of their poverty, to support their own schools without help from their neighbors.

But this is one of the best burdens which God so often leaves on His servants in this life, on purpose to stimulate them to greater efforts; and to give Himself an occasion for showing His power and love, by blessing them with success beyond their own means.

Never cease, therefore, striving for the perfection of your schools, so that parents "seeking first the Kingdom of Heaven" for their children, shall have added to them also secular learning equaling or surpassing that of their neighbors, in all things that will serve the children practically to work their way through the world.

Instruct parents, both in public and in private, that if they deprive their children of the benefit of Catholic schools, when they can be had, they wrong their children grievously. And they will feel the consequence even in this life; when those children, brought up with less love and fear of God, will prove deficient also in love and reverence for their parents; deficient in fidelity to their duties among men; deficient in respect for the laws and good order of their country.

And this is the most important part of parents' obligations to Almighty God; they are bound to listen to the teaching of their pastor. If any think they have reasons sufficient to hinder them from sending their children to the Catholic school, it is for their pastor to judge whether the reasons are truly sufficient before God.

"Parents," says the *Canada School Journal*, "should consider, when they hear a complaint of a teacher from

their child, how very difficult it is, even when no deceit is intended, for a child to take a just or accurate view of the relation between himself and the administrator of school discipline, how much that difficulty is increased by the comments and sympathies of other children, and how fatally it is sure to be perverted into falsehood if the parent shows a disposition to side against the teacher."

The Ottawa Separate Schools are taught by 20 Christian Brothers, 27 Sisters of the Community of Grey Nuns, and two lay-teachers. It is expected that the staff will be increased after the summer vacation. Over two thousand children are in attendance at present.

In one of his admirable pastoral letters Bishop McQuaid, of Rochester, says: "A great help in the education of children is to be found in providing them with good reading. Not alone for children is this a help, but for adults as well. The power of the press, for good or for evil, is felt in every house in the land. So many read the newspaper that the few who do not, come under the influence nevertheless of those who do. From one cause and another, our American youth hunger after the printed page. They will read good literature, not perhaps the highest in tone and character, if they can obtain it, but such is the weakness of human character unaided by God's grace, that they will devour with greater avidity the pernicious publications of panderers to depraved and corrupt taste. We warn parents against the danger of permitting in their houses unwholesome reading of any kind, calculated to corrupt faith or morals. They must, therefore, watch the newspaper, the novel, the magazine, the book. Sometimes the poison in the newspaper lurks in the unsuspected advertisement; then it permeates stories of doubtful character; then it is found in sneers and slurs against religion and its ministers; and, last of all, in the labored article, or editorial."

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All communications should be addressed to

The Publishers,

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