

## CHURCH AND STATE IN CANADA.

Notwithstanding his widely-advertised pretensions, the writer of "Current Events" in the *Canadian Monthly* is not, never will be, a statesman. An inveterate religious bigot, he is, like all bigots of the kind, narrow-minded, and, consequently, incapable of discussing with due fairness any political question in a country like this, whose government is democratic, and whose population, in point of religion, is about half Catholic and half Protestant. In his hands—we allude to Professor Goldwin Smith—the *Canadian Monthly*, which at its inception promised to be national in spirit and tone, has become a low sectarian institution, not less offensive to Catholics than its contemporary, the *Dominion Monthly*, which at least has the decency and honesty to appear under its true colours, a purely Protestant periodical. Thus, in the November number of this *pseudo Canadian Monthly*, we find the Catholic Church spoken of as "anti-national," and her priests as "foreign Jesuits," an unmeaning expression employed by the professor to denote contempt and give offence. These gratuitous insults, be it well understood, proceed from a member of the Ontario Council of Public Instruction, not from a bumpkin scribe; we must, therefore, attribute them to the *malice*, not to the *ignorance*, of their author. With such a man, it would be folly to reason, for, although ignorance, in whatever degree dark, may be dispelled by the light of instruction, yet malice, deeply rooted in the heart, is proof against all the powers of an exterior mind, indeed yields only to divine grace. It is not, then, the writer, but the readers, of "Current Events," we now propose to address on the subject of the Catholic Church considered in its relations to the Canadian people and Government.

Our thesis is this: That the Church in Canada, far from being anti-national, is to the State what a mother is to her child in arms; that as the child, without the support of the mother, must fall, so, too, must fall the State without the support of the Church.

The State is the whole body of people united under one government. Our own government, although attached to the crown of England, is in its constitution a democracy; that is, administered by the people, through their representatives, for the popular weal. Mark well the words, *popular weal*. They do not imply for the good of this province at the expense of that; of the majority to the preju-

dice of the minority; but of the *whole people*, weak province as well as strong province, minority as well as majority. The popular weal requires popular liberty, the liberty of order, not of revolution. This liberty is the life of the State, and it must be maintained. By whom? By the government. But the government is administered by the people, therefore the people should preserve their own liberty. They *should*, but *will* they? What guarantee have we that the people, if left to themselves, will maintain liberty as we have defined it—the liberty that knows no license, and conserve their existence as a State? Who or what will control their passions?—(the sovereign people have passions)—what will regulate their interests?—(all interests are not common)—so that they will do no wrong, so that province will not jar against province, so that the strong will not oppress the weak?

The Constitution—the Act of Confederation?

Bah! It is the property of the people; they take care of it; they amend it as they please. It cannot, it *does not*, sustain popular liberty. Under it, a minority is cruelly persecuted in one province, and confusion reigns rampant in another.

Education?

As it obtains with us it is godless. It is controlled by the people, and we are trying to find something to control them.

The Press?

Worse still. Mighty lever as it is called, it does not mould public opinion. It is the slave of the people, a vile panderer to their prejudices, their passions, and their vices.

What remains?

Religion. Religion alone can direct and control a people, whether considered individually or collectively. All Christian communities admit this truth in theory, but few care to profit by it in practice. Religion! There are a thousand different forms of religion! There are; but nine hundred and ninety-nine are classed under the general term of Protestantism, and the one remaining, outnumbering all other in adherents, is called the Catholic Church.

Well; does our trust lie in Protestantism?

God forbid! It is a mere tool in the hands of the people. Far from controlling the people, it is controlled by them? Far from sustaining popular liberty, it is at the mercy of the caprices of the individual. It was born in revolution, it exists by revolution, and revolution by it. Protestantism of a certainty does not answer.