

### THE PRESENT EMERGENCY.

In our last month's issue we drew attention to an impending danger which, unless averted without loss of time, will inevitably be the means of assigning to the Anglo-Catholic Church in Canada and the United States a very unenviable position in the ecclesiastical part of the history of America at the close of the nineteenth century.

"Feed my lambs" is a most solemn and far-reaching command of Christ to his Church,—a command which no branch of His Church can neglect without infinite loss. It includes the spiritual training and formation of a generation now for a short time plastic in our hands, like clay in the hands of the potter, but which will soon harden into vessels meet for the Master's use, or for the service of Satan, the destroyer.

For more than a century *Sunday* schools have existed in ever-increasing number amongst us, side by side, with increasing spiritual ignorance, schism, heresy and infidelity.

In secular matters, selfishness—the opposite of christian charity—is separating class from class. Free education, very good in design, is becoming evil in practice, resulting, as it too often does, in thinning the ranks of labour and crowding the learned professions with incompetency, and consequently dissatisfied and dangerous members of society.

Men's labor and capital are found on opposite sides of a chasm which a few years ago was but a mere rift, but is now fast widening into a great and dangerous gulf, threatening incalculable danger to the body politic. The red flag of socialism has already been displayed, and unless the chasm is speedily closed, revolution, bloodshed and rapine will result, unless history ceases to repeat itself. Nothing but the blessed Incarnation with its divine charity can close the chasm, and at present but small effort is being made by Religion to re-bind mankind together,—as its very name suggestively implies. Christ's members are divided into numberless schisms, so that the world will not—as Christ foretold—believe in the incarnation, nor imbibe its healing charity. The only body of christians found banding together to insist on teaching religion in the public schools, in the face of a determined secularism, at all costs and risks, is the Roman Catholic Church. Other branches of the Church are beginning to perceive the danger and the duty of the hour,—the tide is turning, but oh, too slowly!

Mutual jealousies are slow to be overcome. Old ruts are hard to be forsaken, whilst the dangerous gulf is widening and deepening daily, and yet a remedy is at hand, if we christians had but the wisdom to seize it and use it, without further selfishness and delay.