

awaken in childhood, and of checking in season their waywardness before time and habit have made these evil propensities all but invincible.

But not alone for these all-important reasons have the mandates gone forth from the Holy See to fully instruct in their religious belief the mind of youth ; for, the child will one day reach manhood's estate and be cast among the thousands who are not only unsympathetic to his creed, but who, owing to prejudice, hatred, or ignorance, openly attack it with the arms of ridicule, ostracism and sophistry. If the youth is to withstand all these assaults in their protean forms, he needs a fund of knowledge imbibed with his mother's milk, and perfected later on by his religious teachers ; he needs, even more, strength of character, which is the slow outcome of long religious training, and of clearly defined convictions which must be deeply bedded in the foundations of the great supernatural truths.

More than this : no Christian can be satisfied with a mere passive loyalty to Holy Church, his Mother ; *He that is not with Me is against Me : and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth* (Luke xi, 23). There is no such thing as an armed neutrality possible for the children of light, the members of Christ's Church. So that the Catholic will be called upon repeatedly in his intercourse with his fellowmen *to give a reason for his faith*. And it is certain that the salvation of not a few, into whose company he is thrown in after life, will depend largely on his ability to cope with the specious objections of those who are not members of the Church.

Nothing could have come more opportunely for the enlightenment of the Associates of the Apostleship of Prayer in general, and for us in particular, whose home is in this great Dominion, than the Encyclical of Leo XIII., dated August 1 of this year, and addressed to the Archbishops and Bishops of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, on the occasion of the Tercentenary of Bl. Peter Canisius, of the Society