

bound to observe. Therefore, in the plan of her Divine Founder, not only has the Church a right, it is even for her a duty to direct, through her ministers, the moral education of her children. This duty follows from the very mission confided by Our Saviour to His apostles and to their successors in the Church : « Teach ye all nations..... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.» (Matt. XXVIII, 20.) Therefore the Catholic Church alone has been commissioned to dispense, throughout all ages, religious and moral instruction to nations as well as to individuals. Hence she has the mission of directing the teaching of morals not only in the higher schools, but also, and perhaps more especially, in those schools where moral education is closely bound, inseparably united to instruction, as is the case in the primary schools. Without this control of the schools the accomplishment of her mission would become impossible. A child requires to know as soon as possible his duties towards God, and to be warned against evil passions at an age when his soul readily receives those lasting impressions that will aid him to pass through the dangers with which the world and the devil shall strew his path through life. « A young man according to his way, even when he is old, he will not depart from it.» (Prov. XXII, 6.) If from early childhood the young man has not been brought up in the love of the precepts of morality, he shall hereafter find difficulties well nigh insurmountable to observe those same precepts, and, consequently, to live a supernatural life, a life of Divine grace, and the solicitude of the Church shall find in him but feeble correspondence with her efforts to conduct him to his final end. The habits of his youth will lead him in another direction. Hence it follows that the Church being alone commissioned by God to teach men morals, cannot, at any period of their lives, abandon her mission. She is not free to renounce her action and control in the schools; under no consideration, under no form of government can she approve schools wherein youth receives no moral instruction. Therefore she always has reproved and ever will reprove the schools commonly styled « unsectarian schools »; because such a system is, of *its nature*, a serious danger to the religious and moral