

tial difference between giving denominational grants to Roman Catholics and to other religious bodies, as the management of Roman Catholic schools will inevitably fall into the hands of the monks and nuns. These are the views entertained by many of the most enlightened Roman Catholics in Ireland. Numerous meetings have been held on the subject, as it was feared, and not without reason, that the government were about to yield to the clamours of a faction, which does not represent the opinion of even the Roman Catholics of Ireland, but whose policy is dictated from Rome by the party which seeks, not the good of the nations among which it has its emissaries, but the advancement of Papal authority. As to the National Schools, the Bishops complain that the children are not free to mark themselves with the sign of the cross; that the images of our Divine Lord and his blessed mother are kept under lock and key; they demand that in Catholic schools, the teachers, books and inspectors shall be Catholic, and subject to the veto of the Catholic Bishop; they wish the model schools to be done away with, and the buildings to be turned into training schools for Roman Catholic teachers; and they have suggested that, as the Protestants are richer than the Roman Catholics, they shall be taxed for them. These proposals were actually under consideration by the government, but the secret was divulged, and public feeling became aroused. The General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church met, and passed resolutions condemnatory of the scheme: the press spoke out. Meetings in Scotland have made it evident that the proposed changes would meet the strongest opposition. Parliament has given signs that it would not consent to the demands of Dr. Cullen. The Church of England has also spoken; and Mr. Whittle, a Roman Catholic, has published a remarkable pamphlet exposing the policy and designs of the Irish Ultramontanes. There the matter rests for the moment. The action of the government has been stayed. Is it likely the designs of the Romish Bishops will be abandoned?

A remarkable similarity of design may be seen between the action of the Papal party in Ireland and the same party here, evidencing a preconcerted movement directed from a central point. Here, however, as we have remarked, the movement meets with but little opposition. The whole machinery of the school system is under the control of the priests, the present Super-

intendent being notoriously but a tool in their hands. The Council of Public Instruction, a mere *nomine umbra*, sanctions whatever books it is told to authorize for use in schools; and in a British Colony works full of treasonable sentiments are coolly placed in the hands of the children of British subjects by a public Board, owing its existence to the appointment of a British Government. What the Ultramontanes desire to do in Ireland has already been done here; the Common School system has been as really abolished as if an Act to that effect had been passed by the Legislature. Even Roman Catholics complain of this state of things; but their voice is stifled, for nominal Protestants, Gallio like, "care for none of these things." Lay teachers are dismissed, and their places supplied by monks (*Frères Chrétiens*) and nuns, who are, by a special clause in the School Act, exempt from examination by any Board of examiners, and placed entirely under the control of the Bishops. This state of things has drawn forth many and bitter remonstrances from Roman Catholics themselves; but the convenient pretext of its being a religious question has served as a good excuse for not interfering. The last representation of this kind which we have seen, is a petition from the County of Shefford, where the system of the Superintendent of Education is being carried out. The preamble of the petition is as follows:

*To the Honourable P. J. O. Chauveau, Superintendent of Education in Lower Canada.*

HONOURABLE SIR.—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the "School Municipality of Shefford, County of Shefford," professing the Roman Catholic religion, deeply regret that an order has lately emanated from your office, that is well calculated (although no doubt unintentionally) to engender strife and discord among our mixed population, that have heretofore blended and lived so united and happy together—said order dividing our schools between two School Inspectors—one visiting and examining the schools, having a Roman Catholic majority—the other visiting and examining the schools having a Protestant majority.

We beg leave to remind you, Honourable Sir, that this is creating an invidious distinction, unnecessary and uncalled for, and will eventually, if persisted in, create and cause strife and discord amongst our mixed population that both Catholics and Protestants would deeply deplore.

The preamble speaks for itself, and any comment upon it would only weaken the force of the appeal. Will it be listened to? That is not the least likely. Most probably no answer will be returned, or if there should be one, some other point will