

Bible in the public schools?" The reason is this. The Catholic will make no objection at all, provided you have the right kind of a Bible. "But what Bible do you propose to introduce—the Protestant version?" And the Catholic says, "That is no Bible at all, sir; that is only a piece of the Bible" says the Catholic, "and a mighty bad piece at that." You have not the two books of the Maccabees; you have not all the Book of Esther, not all of Tobias, nor the history of Susannah, therefore, you have not all of the Bible, and Catholics cannot in conscience submit to a falsification of God's Holy Word. The Catholic says, "if we must have a Bible, well, let us have a whole one, and not a piece; a real Bible, a faithful translation of God's Holy Book. The Catholic can never consent in conscience that his child should be compelled to read a Bible which he knows is not a Bible. That is one reason we have against the Bible now used in public Schools; and we have another reason:—We Catholics have for the Bible a very great veneration; we look upon it as the language of God to man, and hence the Church commands that whenever the priest reads in the public service a portion of the Bible, he must kiss it with veneration; and that whenever he reads the Gospel, all the congregation must stand up out of respect for God's Holy Word. Such is our veneration and respect for the Word of God—for the Bible. Now, school books are never respected by boys and girls; they tear them, blot them over with ink, throw them about, stand upon them, sit upon them, and so on; and we Catholics do not want the Bible to be treated in that manner, and therefore, object to the Bible in the public schools." "Well, anyhow," says my Protestant friend, "it cannot be denied that the Catholic religion is opposed to education and the fine arts." I deny it, emphatically I deny it; and, moreover, I assert that there is no religious denomination that does as much for education as the Catholic religion. The government of England, some few years ago, appointed a commission of gentlemen, who were to travel over the whole world, and take statistics everywhere, and see in what country was the most done for education. And they came back,—and mind you these men were not Catholics, they were everything but Catholics and opposed to the Catholic religion—and when they came back with their statistics, they proved that there was not a country in the world where as much was done for education and learning as was done in the Papal States—the States of the Pope. That the Papal States had exceeded all other countries in the world for the means they employed for free, gratuitous education, in every branch of learning and of science;