

March, and announce to him in my name and authority as his bishop that:

1. His action in this matter is rebellion against the Church, and he comes under the anathema pronounced by the Son of God, "If any man will not hear the Church let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican."

2. That I hereby reserve to myself alone, or, in my absence from the diocese, to the administrator for the time being, all power of absolving such rebellious Catholic from his sins unless he shall have signed a written declaration, or ordered it to be signed by his agent, that he heartily repents of having injured the Church and scandalized his neighbors by his withdrawal of his taxes from Catholic education, and shall have promised to become a supporter of the separate school at the earliest opportunity. On receipt of this declaration in writing any priest of my diocese may absolve him.

3. This reservation of faculties applies to the article of death as firmly as to any other time. The rule that "no case is reserved at the hour of death" signifies that only penitents who at that hour confess a reserved sin, and are heartily sorry for having committed it, and firmly resolve to avoid it in the future, and moreover are willing to repair in the manner prescribed by the church whatsoever scandal their evil action may have given, may be absolved by any priest without awaiting special faculties from the bishop. But neither in life nor in death can a sinner be validly absolved without true contrition for his sins and firm purpose of amendment, and reparation, as far as in him lies, of the injury done by him to individuals or to the church, even in *articulo mortis*, so long as they persist in their rebellious disposition and refuse to sign the written declaration aforesaid, or order it to be signed in their name. And should any of them unhappily die in that state, I hereby ordain that no public mass shall be offered nor any public prayers said for his soul, nor shall his corpse be admitted into the church, nor any bell be tolled for announcement of his death or burial, nor shall it be lawful for any priest to attend his funeral. But if the dying sinner shall have signed the required declaration of repentance, and consequently died in the peace of the church, the pastor is hereby required to read such declaration aloud to the faithful in the church before the funeral mass or absolution of the corpse, and also at mass on the following Sunday, before praying for the soul of the deceased.

4. And it is furthermore required that the pastor shall send such declaration, signed by the penitent, to the bishop of the diocese without delay. Should the sick sinner be unable to sign the declaration, his wife or

any member of his family or the priest may be his agent for the signing of his name, if he have given order for this to be done in presence of one or more witnesses.

5. The pastor of each mission is hereby required to send to the bishop, as soon as possible after the 1st of March, a list of the names of all, should there be any, who have declared against supporting the separate schools.

Dear Rev. Father, I have not deemed it necessary heretofore to make the withdrawal of support from Catholic schools a reserved case, although the other bishops of the province have done so. In the present crisis, however, when Satan has raised a violent agitation against the church, and has chosen the school room for his battle ground, there is exceptional danger to our people, many of whom may be seduced from the path of duty by the misrepresentations of an irreligious press and the cajolery of party politicians, or by personal inducements, supplying pretenses of one kind or another for deserting the cause of Christ and ranging themselves on the side of the enemy.

I confidently hope you will succeed in preventing this evil in your district. If after the 1st of March any of your people be found registered, through neglect or any accident, on the assessment roll of the common schools, see that they protest in the Court of Revision. When sending me the list of renegades mark (X), the names of such as may be reasonably excused on account of the excessive distance of the separate school, or any other fair cause, and state exactly to me the truth or falsity of the excuse.

† JAMES VINCENT CLEARY,
Archbishop-elect of Kingston.

"L'Interprete" Explains what the Circular Means.

The member for Prescott supporting the Mowat Government has in his paper, *L'Interprete*, the following comment on the above circular:

"Archbishop Cleary has addressed a private circular to the clergy of his diocese, in which he energetically condemns the abolition of separate schools, which Meredith and his associates are working for so tenaciously by making it the principal plank of their platform for the coming elections. That is to say, that this circular has the sanction of the truly liberal and generous policy of Hon. Messrs. Mowat and Ross. It declares, it seems, that absolution and Christian burial will be refused to all Catholics who will not pay their tax to the separate schools."