

PASTORAL LETTER.

THE ARCHBISHOP AND BISHOPS OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF HALIFAX, TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THEIR FLOCKS.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

Among the many duties of our pastoral solicitude, we feel called on to address you on the all important subject of Catholic Education, which seems to attract just now, a large share of public attention in the dioceses committed to our care. Commissioned by the Prince of Pastors to teach you all things whatsoever He has commanded, and fully alive to the account we shall have to render for the performance of that sacred duty, we are now constrained to point out to you the many perils which threaten the Faith of the rising Catholic generation in this country. Highly as we estimate the advantages of secular education, yet we prize infinitely more the inestimable boon of early religious culture. The contrast between the two is the same as that between the body and the soul, between earth and Heaven, between the creature and God. To you, Catholic Fathers and Mothers, are these words of admonition now especially addressed. Notwithstanding all the specious theories advanced on the subject of Education in these modern times, it is the parents and not the State, who are answerable for the immortal souls of their children, and consequently for the mode and manner of their early training. To interfere with the performance of their duty in this particular is a violation of all law, human and divine. The odious system of double taxation for the maintenance of two sets of schools, is not a whit less tyrannical than the tithe system in the old country, where our Catholic forefathers and Protestant Dissenters were forcibly taxed to support a hostile Church and creed, while they had to tax