

## The Educational Crisis in England.

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**T**HE all-important topic in England at the present time is the forthcoming Educational Bill which is to be introduced in the Imperial Parliament in a short time. The Liberal party made this one of the strong planks in their political platform, and the question formed one of the chief issues in the recent electoral campaign. The Liberal ministry included in their programme an Act which was to supersede that brought in and passed by the Conservative administration in 1902, and materially change its provisions. Immediately upon the overwhelming victory obtained by the Liberals at the polls, the Catholics, to whom this matter of education is of the most vital importance, began an agitation against any infringement of their rights in the proposed legislation, and are now using every means in their power to obtain a proper measure of justice at the hands of the new ministry. Their valiant efforts are attracting considerable attention in every quarter.

We, in Canada, can well appreciate the deep significance of such a struggle, for it has been our fortune, twice within a decade, to have been confronted by a problem closely resembling that which engages so much attention in England at the present time. The subject of education is one which all who are imbued with the true instincts of Catholicity cannot fail to give the greatest consideration and concern, for it is a point upon which the Church has always taken the firmest stand and with regard to which her regulations are most concise and immutable. The Mother of Education throughout the centuries, she has ever clearly recognized and fully appreciated the fact that the success and progress of her mission depends to a considerable extent on the nature of the instruction which is instilled into the minds of her children. The inevitably wretched results of experiments with so-called "undenominational" education are all too apparent and are in themselves sufficient vindication of the measures taken by the Church to safeguard the faith in her children.

The fight for Catholic schools in England has been a long uphill battle, and now when they had won a comparatively satisfactory settlement and were just commencing to appreciate the results of success, the fruits of their hard-won victory would appear to be about