

doing under difficulties and obstacles almost insurmountable ; they will take courage and persevere with a bolder determination, to impart Catholic education to their Catholic children. This will inevitably be the result of the public recognition by Parliament of their services in the cause of education. Indeed, if the Catholics of England gained nothing more than the praise betowed upon their schools during the debate on the bill, they would have every reason to rejoice.

But to come to the facts of the case it is well known that prior to the present time, the managers and promoters of Catholic instruction in England—the supporters of the Catholic voluntary schools—had an arduous task to perform. They had not only to keep their schools in working order, to pay their teachers, and to pay every cent that went to build their schools ; but they had in addition to pay the education tax of the community in which they lived. Thus, besides being forced to pay just as much per man towards the support of the Board schools as their Nonconformist brethren, they had to maintain their own Catholic schools. Surely this was unjust, not only from a financial standpoint, but from the fact that the Catholics were compelled to pay to the support of schools from which they derived no benefit and in the teaching of which they could not confide.

Such a state of injustice and oppression bore heavily on our brethren in England during the last thirty years, but they had no choice but to bear it, unless, what they could not do, they would abandon their Catholic schools and submit their children to the teaching imparted in the Board schools, which teaching, notwithstanding what may be said to the contrary, was, in many cases, grossly saturated with the foolish bigotry of a frantic and jealous Protestantism. With laudable zeal and undaunted determination, they have not only kept their schools in existence—not one Catholic school having been closed since 1870—but they have accomplished work in them not only in religious instruction but in secular education as well, which time and time again has elicited the most unstinted praise from the leading educationists of the land, and which has most undoubtedly been the means of securing the present terms from Parliament.

In this noble work, the Religious Orders played a part which