

the times, and moral courage to stand up for the right and strike decisive blows against every form of tyranny, and face the personal abuse and danger incident to the overthrow of hoary evils. Why should the people of Ontario and other provinces look on with indifference, and yet pretend to breathe the one national spirit, while both Roman Catholics and Protestants in Quebec are being oppressed? If this province is allowed to remain in this condition, all the rest must suffer politically, commercially, educationally and in every way. And it is undeniable that for many years the parochial and tithing system has been made use of to eliminate Protestants from among the faithful, and to increase the wealth and consolidate the power of the Church. In the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 1774, it was distinctly stipulated that the old law for the maintenance of churches, parsonages, and priests should be restored only with respect to the eighty-two parishes which then existed. The intention was that the parish system should never extend beyond these and the Seignories then intact. But this restriction has been set aside, and bishops, in the exercise of their legal powers, erect new parishes. In such cases their first object is to have all lands within the bounds subject to tithes. To secure this Protestants must be removed. They are therefore rendered uncomfortable through lack of educational and religious advantages, and in other ways well understood by the priesthood. As soon as they are made to feel obliged to leave, their farms are promptly bought by Roman Catholics, and the money advanced for the purpose by invisible agents is secured to them by first mortgages on the property. Whole districts are being manipulated in this fashion. We instance St Urbain Premier, once thickly settled by Highland Presbyterians, but now virtually French, the regions of Beau River and river St. Louis, and many parts of Glengarry and eastern Ontario, where the work of elimination is being vigorously pushed. And it is estimated that were the English speaking population of Quebec wholly driven away and their farms placed in possession of French Canadians the revenue of the Church would be increased by at least \$1,000,000 yearly—a sufficient stimulus to account for ecclesiastical zeal in the matter.

#### ASSESSMENTS FOR CHURCHES &c.

Another kindred method of drawing ec-

clesiastical revenue, which bears oppressively on the people, is legal assessments for the erection, enlargement, and repair of churches, parsonages, etc. Parishioners have virtually no voice in determining the size, style, or cost of such—their business is to pay for them, and the most effectual means are used to compel them to do so. In the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, Chapter XVIII., it is provided that on a petition being presented to the Bishop of the Diocese, by a majority of freeholders in any parish for the construction of a church, chapel, or parsonage-house, he shall proceed to a final decree in the matter according to ecclesiastical law and the practice of the Diocese. Any difficulty that might be supposed to occur in securing such a petition can be speedily removed by ecclesiastical appliances. The Church can visit offenders within her communion with condign punishment of the most appalling nature. To understand this it is only necessary to remember that according to Romish theology salvation is exclusively tied to the sacraments, and these are wholly in the hands of the priests and are granted or withheld at their option. To withhold them from a person is not only to subject him to present disgrace and excommunication, but also to involve his soul in eternal ruin. To devout believers in this doctrine there is no weapon wielded by the civil powers so forceful and effectual as this in bringing them into thorough subjection. This ecclesiastical lash can be used at any moment, and against persons of all ranks and degrees without the tedious litigation and delays of civil courts, and with no possibility of appeal or redress in case of injustice, real or supposed. We risk nothing, therefore, in saying that when the bishop and his commissioners make up their minds to have church extension they can easily procure the documents required in terms of the Consolidated Statutes. This being done, a tax is levied for the amount required, be it great or small, on the property of the parishioners, and collected, if need be, by process of law like any ordinary debt. Thus it is that magnificent churches, parsonages, etc., appear in all parts of the country, and are such for costliness and stability as fill strangers with amazement, and stand in obtrusive contrast to the cheap and shabby dwellings of an impoverished people. These are the main facts regarding revenue derived from