

ROMANISM AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WE are across the lines and write from an American stand-point. Yet much of what we may say is applicable to Canada. We also desire to deal chiefly with those phases of the question which are giving rise to a conflict between Protestants and Romanists, which threatens to become very serious.

It would be of little use for Protestants in the United States and Canada, to ignore any longer the fact that they are engaged in a warfare with a strong, wily, well organized and united hierarchy, which means to conquer this continent and place it under the sway of an Italian Monarch. Too long already has the conceit of Americans led them to imagine, that their institutions are proof against the attacks of that politico-religious system known as Romanism. It is high time that they should shake off their slotti, especially in view of the fact that there is here, as in Canada, a large number of office-seekers, ready to prostitute everything to Romish favor.

One of the strong points of Romanism has everywhere been, its fostering care for the young. It begins with the child and instils in his mind the errors and superstitions of a system of delusion, which human strength alone is powerless to uproot, and which, when uprooted is found to have drained the soil of the heart and conscience of all that is needed to cause true religion and morality to grow.

The priests of Rome have found out that a system of education embracing all those branches of study, which open to the young mind new horizons of thought, giving it ample scope to develop, is inimical to the growth, nay, even to the maintenance of the mediæval system they uphold. Unable to control the education of this Republic, as they do in other countries, satisfied that if their children are brought in close contact with the Protestant American youth, in schools where the Bible is read, they will lose their hold on them, the priests of Rome feel that extraordinary measures of prevention must be adopted by them to save their children and through them their Church. The parochial school system will be the plank of safety.

In order to justify the establishment of these separate schools, side by side with the well-equipped free schools of the land, which are so