

It is to help Catholics in England to secure more equitable legislation for their schools that Leo XIII has asked the prayers of the members of the Apostleship.

On Jan. 4th, 1895, a council of Catholic bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Westminster was held, with His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan presiding. They read the report of the committee appointed to draw up a bill intended to remedy the grievances of Catholics in the matter of education. The council consisted of the Cardinal and five bishops, of the Duke of Norfolk and of five members of the committee on Catholic Schools. The draft of the bill was unanimously adopted.

The action of this meeting was brought to the notice of the faithful by the following joint pastoral letter emanating from the united hierarchy of England :

“ The Cardinal Archbishop and Bishops of the province of Westminster cannot allow the occasion of their annual end-of-week meeting to pass by without renewing their appeal to the Catholics of England to rally in close and determined union around their chief pastors in support of the great cause of denominational education.

“ The justice of the claim put forward in the draft Bill adopted unanimously by the Cardinal Archbishop and Bishops in January last ought to be more and more urgently pressed home upon the minds of the electorate of the country, and upon statesmen and politicians. No efforts should be spared to convince the English people that the public Elementary schools used by parents determined that the secular education of their children shall be associated with definite religious training cannot be thrown upon private charity (and thus be placed at a fatal disadvantage with Board Schools) without national reproach and dishonor in a Christian country like England.

“ The electorate must be persuaded and convinced that