

occurrence, constitute one of the principal causes of the demoralization now spreading itself in every direction to an alarming extent.

In order to put a stop to so grave a calamity, we deem it our duty to trace out for you the following rule of conduct, which, in fact, is simply confirming the recommendations made you in the Pastoral Letter of the Fathers of the second Provincial Council of Quebec, dated the 4th July, 1854.

1°. Stand courageously by the engagements you entered into, on becoming members of the Society of the Cross, or Temperance Society; and renew those sacred engagements daily, by reciting five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys.

2°. Do not frequent Taverns; and, if, when travelling, you are compelled to resort to houses of the kind, be careful to select such as are conducted in an orderly manner; but never resort to Taverns in which intoxicating liquors are sold without a licence.

3°. In order to guard against the inroads of drunkenness, be careful to have, in your respective localities, no more than the number of taverns necessary for travellers; and see that the tavern keepers are duly qualified, and that they maintain proper order in their houses.

You hold in your own hands, Beloved Brethren, the simplest and the easiest means of remedying all these evils, and a host of others, by which our once happy country is now made desolate; it consists in always making proper elections, that is to say, in sending to represent you in Parliament, none but men who are disposed to put down vice and encourage morality: in selecting for mayors and for councillors of your municipalities only such of your fellow citizens as you know to be capable of maintaining good order. Hence, you must ever proceed in such elections under a sense of the grave responsibility that lies on your consciences, since you shall have to answer for all the evil done by the men whom you will have elected, while knowing them to be incapable of fully discharging the duties of their position.

When, therefore, you are called upon, Beloved Brethren, to exercise the rights of political life, do not forget that you must answer for your conduct before God, should you fail to act with a proper care in the discharge of the duties attaching thereunto and for the serious consequences that may result from your negligence. If, as we are not permitted to doubt, we must all render an account to a just Judge, even for an idle word, which seems to us of so little moment, what then will it be, when we shall be cited before his tribunal there to answer for acts which will have been the undeniable cause of a multitude of crimes, and of the eternal loss of a large number of souls!