

A recent announcement states that the Holy Father has made known his decision in regard to the Manitoba School Question. Of course there may be some foundation for this report, but it would be better to await the official decision of the Pope before commenting. The report says that Catholics will be obliged to support Separate Schools. At all events this once famous question is likely soon again to become prominent.

The *Ave Maria* says: "The Rev. J. B. Soullier O.M.I., who lately passed to his reward was the priest who instructed Maria Monk's daughter in the Catholic faith. Her real name was Mrs. St. John Eckels, and her greatest achievement was the book in which she exposed the infamy of her mother, whose 'horrible revelations' of conventual life gave well meaning Protestants that 'creepy' feeling they used to have."

The assertion recently made by Cardinal Vaughan that between 600 and 700 converts are received into the Church every month in England, has been the occasion of a considerable amount of discussion among the papers of that country. Instead of being exaggerated it is said that this estimate falls below the average. From what can be learned from English papers, in nearly every issue of which accounts of some most notable conversions are found, we are led to believe that the Cardinal cannot be far from the correct number.

It is announced that in the approaching elections in France, the Pope will interfere to induce the people to abandon their monarchical aspirations and accept the republican form of government. The reason for this action on the part of the

Sovereign Pontiff is because of the great difficulties under which the Church must labor in France while the country remains in its present unsettled socialistic state. This is a most difficult project which Leo XIII has taken upon himself to perform in his advanced age. But the vigor of the Holy Father, instead of diminishing, seems rather to be on the increase, if we would judge from the great undertakings in which he has lately been engaged.

The following beautiful words were addressed by Pope Leo XIII to a number of Irish Catholics who recently made a pilgrimage to the Eternal City under the patronage of Very Rev. Prior Glynn: "My children, I welcome you from my heart. I am the Father of the Faithful, and you are the best beloved of my children. You come to me from the most Catholic country in the world—a country that has suffered fearlessly, cheerfully, persecution, imprisonment, and death for the Faith's sake. Yours is a peculiar faith. This faith that was planted in your country by the blessed Apostle St. Patrick is impossible to eradicate." What a glorious tribute is this, coming from the Venerable Head of the Catholic Church! Irishmen have many qualities upon which they may well pride themselves, but in the whole history of the Irish race there is nothing which reflects more credit on them, nor more strongly commands the admiration of the world, than their perseverance, under the greatest difficulties, in the faith which St. Patrick brought to their fathers. Well has the Pope styled Ireland the most Catholic country in the world, and Irishmen the best beloved of his children.

By the death of Colonel George Bliss, which occurred lately at Wake-