

He has had experience, too, in political wire-pulling. By those laws he has been condemned, no one says unjustly. We should be disposed to advocate clemency; but then clemency is being *demande*d. We are therefore otherwise disposed, and say let the law take its course. The pardoning power in the hand of the Executive ought never to be used as a political bribe, or dispensed as a solatium. "The quality of mercy is not strained." If strained it is no more mercy, but weak-kneed justice, of which we can well stand the absence.

A KINDLY criticism we once received after speaking upon the subject of Roman Catholicism; our friend thought we had been too careful of being unjust towards those from whom we differed. We confess to having felt flattered by the uncommon charge of doing more than justice to an alien faith. Some of the sweetest lives in Christendom have breathed their fragrance under the Papal name. Much as we differ from the faith of the Vatican, we believe God's dew and sunshine fall as benignly on the wooden cross which marks the silent grave in a Roman Catholic cemetery as on the plain marble of God's acre at Bunhill Fields. For simple faith, whether spent with a rosary or a gospel, we have unfeigned sympathy and respect. Roman Catholicism, however, claims political power, the right to rule both governments and kings. Here we must cry halt, and that with no bated breath. Far be it from us to aid in stirring up religious bitterness, or to add strength to political alienations; but there are facts which must be noted and met. Congregationalism has ever maintained the right of the individual conscience, and has therein been the strong asserter of liberty, the determined foe of all class rule or tyranny. We suspect there is still work for it to do, and recent events are calling therefor. We design a few plain words thereon.

FIRSTLY, we have had a prison investigation in this city. The warden has had the unparalleled audacity to subject prisoners to discipline. Some men could not get their tobacco! Though more comfortable than thousands of our worthy poor, the Queen's boarding-house has not provided some of the luxuries of life wherewith to punish her thieves, cut-throats

and rascals; above all, some Roman Catholic chaplains were not permitted to run the concern. Therefore the warden must be put aside, rumour had it, that a true son of the church might be duly installed in his place. Investigation has made plain that Mr. Massie's only faults have been thorough impartiality and straightforward dealing, with an occasional biting of the lips to which we suspect even an angel would be tempted. Even the accusers acknowledge this. But the end was not accomplished, and Papal political clamour had to be quieted. Therefore Mr. Massie must consent to have a Roman Catholic book-keeper, who may be unexceptional, but whom to force upon a man that is to be held responsible for the entire institution is an outrage to justice and to common sense.

AGAIN, our common schools are national, not denominational. Our Roman Catholic friends demanded separate schools, which they should never have had at the public expense. They have them, and yet keep their hand on the national schools. Proof? The outcry against "Marnion," the overlooking of the Scripture reading selected for use in the schools by the Roman Catholic prelate, Roman Catholic teachers and trustees forced upon the community. True, to be national, the system must give equal rights to all; but our friends have all these equal rights *plus* the separate schools. Hands off, gentlemen.

OKA territory was given to a Roman Catholic corporation (we distinguish between individuals and soulless corporations), for mission work to be done among resident Indians. The Indians are to be expatriated at the public expense, and the lands retained to swell the already immense wealth of a body that never cries enough until it has all. What right, its trust ended, has the seminary to Oka?

THERE are lands in the city of Quebec, once owned by the Jesuits, who became such a nuisance generally that in 1773 they were suppressed by the Pope himself. These lands passed into the hands of the Government, as they should have done, the Government representing the people, whose is the land under God. The Jesuits have been re established, being useful in doing all the intriguing neces-