

THE CATHOLIC SHIELD.

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE AND GENERAL REVIEW.

"Scuto circumdabit te veritas ejus."

Subscription: \$1.00 per annum in advance.

Single Copy, 10 Cts.

VOL. I.

OTTAWA, JULY, 1881.

No. 3.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

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The Publisher,

"CATHOLIC SHIELD,"

OTTAWA, ONT.

THE CATHOLIC SHIELD.

EDITOR'S CARD.

The undersigned begs to inform the patrons of the CATHOLIC SHIELD that he is its sole Editor, and will be responsible for every thing appearing in its columns. Having secured the services of some of the most competent writers available in the ranks of the clergy and laity, he can promise an instructive and entertaining Journal every month. As to his course, he wishes to say that, in open questions it will be free and independent; in matters of doctrine, directed by the teachings of the Church; in ail and towards all, shaped by Charity.

M. J. WHELAN,

Priest.

OTTAWA, June 1st, 1881.

WANTED!—A SEPARATE SCHOOL LAW FOR ONTARIO.

The early part of the month of July is always a season of worry for school teachers and their pupils. Already are begun those awfully prying examinations, which are intended to show the results of the year, to separate the drones from the workers, and discern the different degrees of merit among the latter. The day of retribution comes on apace, much too fast for idlers, but then vacation tide will follow, and none will find it is arrived too soon or think its term too long. Some parents, chiefly those who regard the school as a sort of store-house for youngsters who would be in the way at home, do complain of the length of the summer holidays, begrudging a much needed rest to the ill-requited preceptors of their sometimes dull-headed or unruly offspring. They have no conception of a teacher's work and responsibilities, no idea of the constant strain there is upon his mental and physical faculties, and sympathize no more with him, perhaps less, than if he were a beast of burden. It is strange what influence such inconsiderate and selfish people exercise in quarters where one would expect more intelligent and broader views to predominate. Owing to their representations, or misrepresentations rather, an abridgment of the vacation had almost been decided in this enlightened province, to go into effect this present year of grace. Fortunately, more liberal counsels prevailed, and teachers and pupils will enjoy as many holidays as in preceding years. Before long, let us hope the term will include the full month of July as well as August, thus adopting the common-sense division of sessions long since determined in all well ordered select schools.

During this leisure, so necessary for mind and body, the teacher who is conscious of a vocation and devoted to his profession, will know how to combine the profitable with the pleasurable, he will not mistake idleness for recreation, and will find moments for quiet reading and study, for observing and examining other teachers' work and their methods, and making himself better acquainted with the school law and system under which he is to exercise his calling. The Catholic Separate School teacher will need to be particularly inquisitive and observant. A pretty close observer of men and things,* albeit a narrow-minded bigot in religious

* *Editor, June, 1881.*